

“Nearer Than When We First Believed”

I. Our “wake up” call: **Romans 13:11-14**

Are we seeing “signs” of the nearness of Christ’s coming that were not there 10 or 20 years ago? Yes. The conditions in our world today make it very clear that Jesus could come VERY soon.

II. Condition of the Earth

1. Lack of pure drinking water
2. Earth has been defiled by pollution. **Isaiah 24:4 & 5**
3. New diseases
4. The Spirit of God is being withdrawn from the earth. **Genesis 6:3**
5. Unnatural disasters **Matthew 24:6-8**

“...he will bring disease and disaster, until populous cities are reduced to ruin and desolation. Even now he is at work. In accidents and calamities by sea and by land, in great conflagrations, in fierce tornadoes and terrific hailstorms, in tempests, floods, cyclones, tidal waves, and earthquakes, in every place and in a thousand forms, Satan is exercising his power....He imparts to the air a deadly taint, and thousands perish by the pestilence. These visitations are to become more and more frequent and disastrous.” *The Great Controversy, pp 589 & 590*

III. Condition of our Society

1. Today is like the time of Noah-thinking of evil continually **Genesis 6:5**

2. The increase of knowledge and information **Daniel 12:4** Also misinformation
3. Society is being conformed to the world **Romans 12:1&2**
4. Society is getting a reprobate mind **Romans 1:21-31**
5. The rich are getting richer and the poor are getting poorer **James 5:1-8**
6. We now have a global economy **Revelation 13:12**

IV. Condition of the Christian Church

1. The loss of confidence in the authority of the Bible. 58% of Christians surveyed by the American Bible Society said they did not personally want wisdom & advice from the Bible.
2. Ever learning but never able to come to the knowledge of the truth because truth is seen to be relative. **2 Timothy 3:1-7**
3. Giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils **1 Timothy 4:1&2**

“Many will be confronted by the spirits of devils personating beloved relatives or friends and declaring the most dangerous heresies. These visitants will appeal to our tenderest sympathies and will work miracles to sustain their pretensions.” *The Great Controversy, p 560*

V. What is our condition today?

1. Are we Laodicean? **Revelation 3:14-22**
2. Are we asleep? **Ephesians 5:14-16**