

God," but doesn't obey God's commands, that person is a liar and does not live in the truth. Those who say they live in God **should live their lives as Christ did**" (1John 2:4-6 cp. 1Peter 2:21-23).

What does all this mean? It means that we who are Christians need to read the Bible and imitate our Lord Jesus in thought, word and deed. We are to live as Christians should. Our lives have to be such that people will listen to us talk about Jesus, because they have seen the way we live. It means that we must be good citizens, showing love and kindness to one another and to others.

4. Be Involved Jesus said, "**Occupy till I come**" (Luke 19:13). Keep busy serving the Lord. The Bible is replete with instructions about being actively involved for Jesus. Words like *Help, Do, Serve, Minister, Practice, etc.*, are essential to being ready for the Lord's return. We are to actively work for Jesus. This means that the attitude of escape or withdrawal from Christian commitment is not to happen. We are not to give up Christian service. One of the tragedies unfolding before our very eyes is that of Christians ceasing to stay involved in Christian ministries. Sunday School is almost finished and Bible Studies are getting smaller. We need to start a clarion call to Christians and all Australians to **'go back to church'**. We are forsaking Churches and letting others have them. **Be Involved.** Take a stand. We cannot retreat, withdraw and leave it to others. This is not Biblical. Jesus calls us to follow him all the days of our lives. We need to pray more and ask the Lord to inspire us to talk to others about Jesus so that others will be saved. Christian, stay involved! Be active in Christian and church activities. Attend Services and Bible studies. This was the message of Jesus and all the New Testament writers.

5. Be Hopeful It is easy to look on the

bad side of life and grow weak. It is a common practice to think the worst when things happen that unsettle us. But as Christians we need to be people of hope realising that the world will not come to an end for a long time yet. We are getting all worried about Climate Change, Carbon Pollution, etc., but we forget the words of Jesus, that He will return to this earth and fix up the mess we have made of it. He has a future plan for this planet. It will still be here for at least another 1000 years (cp. Revelation 5:9-10, 20:4).

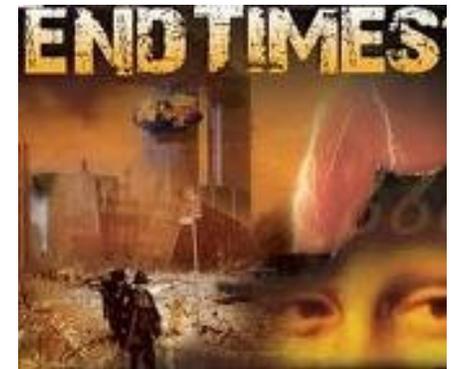
The Bible gives specific hope for the future regarding Church age believers. Our hope is that of the Rapture (1Thessalonians 4:13-18). The Lord will soon take his church to heaven before the Tribulation age, (Matthew 24) which will have worse troubles than we see at present. So, when things begin to get you down, **'look up'** for Jesus is coming soon. Are you ready? Are you a believer!! We have His promise, "*I will come again and receive you unto myself that where I am there you will be also*" (John 14:3). How can we become discouraged when we have God's promise concerning the soon return of Jesus?

These are just five ways we are to live as Christians in these Last Days. May God help us to take them seriously.

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- John 8:36 ASSOCIATION

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Living in these Last Days

Living in these days can be very scary.

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Financial Crashes and Monetary Losses
Housing Foreclosures
Earthquakes in unusual places
Famines and Food shortages
Tsunamis and Tidal Waves
Tornadoes, Cyclones and Hurricanes
Incurable Diseases

These horrific disasters have everyone on edge. Their rapid increase is what's worrying everyone. They are becoming too frequent. It seems like they are out of control.

How do we live as Christians in these Last Days before Jesus returns?

1. Be Ready All that's happening in the world today is very scary. It's enough to give us sleepless nights and worrying days.

People I speak to are wondering what's next and the condition of the world and current events are of great concern. Jesus said, *"There will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; Men's hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of heaven will be shaken"* (Luke 21:25-26).

Why will they be so scared that they will experience heart failure? The answer is, because they do not know the Lord. Jesus said, *"You must be ready, because these events and the Son of Man will come at an unexpected hour"* (Matthew 24:44).

World wide catastrophes are upon us and we can lose so much so quickly through natural

disasters. We have no way of coping with them apart from an assurance of life hereafter.

This comes about by knowing Jesus Christ personally. To have inner peace about life here and eternal life in the future, we must turn to Jesus Christ to save us. If we trust in him as Lord and Saviour he promises us an eternal home in heaven (John 1:12, 3:16).

2. Be Aware.... The Lord puts no value on ignorance. He has given us His Word in the Bible and he tells us to "study it". To meditate on it day and night. We are instructed: *"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth"* (2Timothy 2:15).

Ignorance breeds fear. Lack of basic Bible truth is not acceptable. We are told to 'stay alert' and be aware of things by reading God's Word.

The Bible challenges us to be knowledgeable of what's going on in the world, why it is happening and what God plans to do about it.

In the gospel of Mark 13: 33 - 37, Jesus is recorded as saying about end time events and his return, *"Be alert! Always be ready! You don't know when that time will be. If you are always ready, you will be prepared. I tell you this, and I say this to everyone: 'Be ready!'"* (Paraphrase).

On May 2, 2011, when President Obama informed the world that Osama bin Laden was killed, he went on to warn everyone to stay vigilant because Al-Qaida is not dead. The Apostle Peter in his letter said a similar thing to Christians who become complacent about the Devil and evil in the world. *"Be careful, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walks about, seeking whom he may devour: Refuse to give in to the devil. Stand strong in your faith."*

You know that your Christian brothers and sisters all over the world are having the same sufferings you have" (1Peter 5:8-9).

Many Christians are afraid, discouraged, upset, frustrated, angry and depressed by what's happening in the world. The Bible teaches us that trouble is coming upon the world and we may experience hurt and discouragement by what's going on in the world. We need to know what the signs of the times mean. We rest easier when we know God's plans and purposes. Fellow Christian, let's get back to the Bible and be aware of God's will and work. Only then will we confidently face these trying days.

3. Be Holy There are a few verses of Scripture that grab me every time I read them. Let me share them with you.

Be ye holy *"Obey God because you are his children. Don't slip back into your old ways of doing evil; you didn't know any better then. But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God--who chose you to be his children -- is holy. For he himself has said, "You must be holy because I am holy"* (1Peter 1:14-17).

Be Godly people *"Since these things will happen, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. Since you are looking forward to this, make every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with him"* (2Peter 3:11-14).

Be pure. *"Dear friends, we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he (Jesus) is pure"* (1John 3:2-3). In fact God's Word insists that we live as Jesus did. Listen to these words. *"If someone says, "I belong to*