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## **SO SHALL IT BE**

Recently, while sitting in a traffic jam I noticed a bumper sticker which read, "eat, sleep and go fishing." This reminded me of a sermon that Dave Wilkerson, pastor of the Times Square Church in New York City gave, showing the attitude of society in the "last days." Luke 17:26-30 predicts, "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed."

If you think the way I do, then images of violence and sexual immorality entered the mind when these verses were read. Sodom was inundated with the practice of homosexuality and yet today we see the same thing occurring in our society. But wait, is this what the passage really said? Take a closer look; nothing was said about violence, lawlessness or sexual perverseness; rather Luke sees into the heart of man where the interests and joys of life have replaced the commitment we should have to God out of love for Christ. With "time saving" inventions like the microwave, fast food, cars,

and computers, one would think we would have time to give our Lord praise, worship and meditation upon His Living Word. Instead, we have picked up more needless projects and vacations to fill up our time; hence, "eat, sleep and go fishing;" or perhaps as Scripture reveals, "while they are saying, 'Peace and safety!' then destruction will come upon them suddenly like birth pangs upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape" (I Thess. 5:3).

Let's go back to Luke and examine the things people are spending their time on: eating, drinking (he did not say drunkenness), marrying, buying, selling, planting and building. None of these are bad practices, rather good. Hebrews 13:4 states, "marriage is honorable" and I Cor. 7:28 says, "if thou marry, thou hast not sinned." In addition, a virtuous wife is said to "considereth a field and buyeth it: with fruit of her hands she planteth a vineyard" (Prov. 31:16). Why does God tell us that we will be doing "good," worthwhile things before the Lord returns? Clearly it is a warning for us to pay attention, listen and commit our lives to the Great Commission (Matt 28:19) rather than become absorbed with our own interests. In Noah's day, everyone was so busy eating, drinking, marrying and socializing with friends that they did not take time to listen to the preaching of Noah. This is the same reason the prophet Jeremiah wrote, "wherefore say my people...we will come no more to thee... my people have forgotten me days without number... Yet thou sayest...I am innocent" (Jer. 2:31). People had become so involved with business and personal affairs that they "forgot" to seek the Lord day after day (days without number). Yet Luke reminds us, "thus shall it be."

Consider also, the parable of the wedding banquet in Luke 14:16-24. Upon the call to come eat with our Lord, "they all with one consent began to make excuse" --excuses which were good, legitimate uses of time, yet time was put before commitment to God. The first man replied, "I have bought a piece of ground, and I must needs go and see it: I pray thee have me excused" (v. 18).

The second man bought five yoke of oxen and desired to test them out so he too asked, "I pray thee have me excused" (v.19). Finally, the third said, "I married a wife, and therefore I cannot come" (v.20). What was the grave sin of these men? They put land, oxen and marriage before fellowship with Christ. Again we hear Luke's prophetic warning "as it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be", when we eat, drink, marry, buy and sell until our hearts content, but woe to the man who does not give his time to God. Take heed to the fate of these three men in this parable for God says, "I say unto you, that none of those men which were bidden shall taste of my supper" (Luke 14:24).

Scripture reminds us that God is "Father of all who is over all and through all and in all" (Eph 4:6). God is "all in all". We often prioritize our lives putting God first, family second, job third etc., but for God to be all in all He must be first, second and third. God deserves all of our time for "lo I am with you always" says Christ. In today's society however, many Christians are professing their faith yet their lives and commitment show faith to be lacking. "Even so faith, if it has no works, is dead, being by itself" (Jam 2:17). Revelations begins by going through seven churches which many commentators agree, speak not only about specific churches of the past but each also represents an ascending time period of history with the last church (Laodicea) reflecting the attitude of society today. Two things need to be mentioned here. First, each church and time frame receives an attribute of Christ which fits the time and circumstances each church is going through. It is no coincidence that the attribute chosen here is Christ as Creator; a reminder for us today when this is so widely denied (Rev 3:14). Secondly, the attitude of society is "luke warm." John writes, "I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot. I wish you were either one or the other! So, because you are lukewarm- neither hot nor cold- I am about to spit you out of my mouth. You say 'I am rich; I have acquired wealth and do not need a thing.' But you do not realize that you are wretched, pitiful, poor, blind and

naked" (Rev. 3:15-17). Indeed today many Christians are lukewarm having the appearance of faith but yet they are dead spiritually. Even Christ points this out when he warned, "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you'" (Matt. 7:22-23). Indeed these were good, worthwhile things, but they were done without faith and perhaps in pursuit of personal dreams and interests. Perhaps even more so, these people did not surrender their entire being to the Spirit. The only way we can overcome the carnal desires is to let Thine will be done, not our will. When selfish interests and personal issues interfere with our spiritual life, ask yourself: Is this His will? Will this benefit the kingdom? Our families? Our spirit?

The Bible warns against putting our interests first. Unfortunately for many the occasional business transaction, vacation, extra sleep and football games get in the way of our Sunday worship (and perhaps daily worship) yet the Bible warns us "consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near" (Hebrews 10:24-25). What takes priority in your life, your business or your Lord?

## **The Mars Rock**

I have received a lot of questions regarding the recently announced "Mars Rock" wondering if life has been found on other planets.

First let me give you a little background on this find. This meteorite is an igneous rock with a mineral make-up similar to that of Mars. The theory is that about 3.6 billion years ago Mars contained liquid water which seeped into the cracks of this rock

bringing Carbon dioxide from the atmosphere with it. About a billion years later, life evolved in this rock and micro-organisms became fossilized in the rock. Then, about 16 million years ago a comet or meteorite hit Mars and caused this rock to be thrown into space. After floating in this vacuum for millions of years it finally entered earth's atmosphere about 13,000 years ago as a fireball in Antarctica where it was discovered in 1984.

Some problems surrounding this theory are as follows:1) The chemicals of this meteorite are said to represent life yet the same chemicals can also be formed from non-living sources. One scientist even admitted that these "fossils" could be the result of mud or contamination from Earth.2) A lab in New Mexico which specializes in meteorites examined the same rock and concluded that the ratio of chemicals in this rock does not indicate life.3) Are the dates theorized correct? C.I.A. has already pointed out problems with radio-isotope dating; especially with water contamination which would render these dates inaccurate.4) Assuming the theory is correct, could organic material resist vaporization for 16 million years in the vacuum of space let alone re-entry into Earth's atmosphere? In the 13,000 years on Earth, was there no contamination? Are the fossils (1/1000 the diameter of a human hair) really fossils?5) Could this be a media effort to gain special funding? NASA scheduled another space probe to Mars in November of 1996. President Clinton was briefed the week before the August 7th announcement of this find and called for additional funding. Meanwhile, as the media is making much of this topic, most scientists are being more skeptical and many even disagree.6) Could a meteorite impact really send rocks off the surface of Mars hurling to outer space? Sounds like a long shot. If true, could a rock from Earth be ejected out to Mars and then be ejected again back to Earth?7) What if they did find bacterial spores on Mars? Creation magazine has pointed out that Creationists for years have said that the pressure of light aided by solar flares, would send dust particles and spores from Earth out into the solar system.

Therefore, Mars could already be contaminated by Earth.

A few years ago Alan Morrison in his book, *The Serpent and the Cross* wrote: "The increasing number of UFO sightings has nothing to do with genuine extraterrestrial civilizations, but is part of an ongoing strategy of the 'powers of darkness' (Eph 6:12),...who are engaged in convincing the minds of the gullible that 'something out there is trying to contact us.' To those whose minds are attuned to such contact, demonic beings will actually manifest themselves as benign 'extra terrestrials' who wish to offer help to humanity... We should not be at all surprised if these developments occur in the near future as part of the advancing strategy of the powers of darkness to discredit the Gospel, debunk the Bible, and eradicate the concept of a transcendent Creator God...It is not at all beyond the bounds of possibility that demons posing as 'highly evolved beings' from another world will be involved in the massive deceptions surrounding the revealing of the final manifestation of the Antichrist." Examples of such prophetic statements can be found everywhere. My last newsletter told of Robert Jastrow now claiming that the spirits are actually highly evolved beings (which is why we can't contact them). Newspapers too, are jumping on the Mars rock. "The Daily Mirror" (7/8/96) responded to the Mars rock by saying, "A tiny fossil will today be held up as proof of life on Mars... The amazing discovery could prove the existence of alien life-forms. It may. . . help to explain where the human race came from. The fact that we are descended from Martians is also a staggering possibility. "The "Daily Telegraph" (7/8/96) also wrote, "This discovery will back the suspicion of many scientists... making alien life inevitable."

As Morrison stated, "friends, all this is so obviously the next major stage in the softening-up process. . .to receive the big announcement: 'They're here!'"

I think one can see the problems involved with this rather

premature announcement. I would like to conclude with a quote from Ken Ham in his AIG newsletter showing where our true focus should be: "These scientists...are so excited at the prospect that life came to Earth from a rock. As I hear all of this I feel like finding every Christian in the world and shaking them out of their apathy and say, 'Come on--let's yell it loud and clear to the media, the scientists, the whole world--let's shout it from the rooftops: Yes! Life did come to Earth from a rock. But you're looking at the wrong rock! This is a lifeless rock. Please look at the real living Rock. This rock created the universe, and created life on Earth. This Rock has been living forever, and this same rock came to Earth to be a Man so that those who acknowledge Him as the true living Rock of salvation can have life eternal with Him. ... We need to bow down and worship the Rock--not a lifeless, small rock in a glass case but the living Rock, the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who is the 'resurrection and the life.'" And he said, The LORD is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; the God of my rock; in him will I trust: he is my shield; and the horn of my salvation (2 Sam. 22:2-3). AMEN!!great evolved spirit."