**These Perilous Times**

**Vol. 12 No. 9 May 7, 2020**

“**What Are You Looking At?”**

 While riding my bicycle on the B/A trail just a few weeks ago, I nearly had a head-on collision with another cyclist! Hurrying through a traffic light intersection, he was coming straight at me. I shouted to him, “Heads Up!” At a the last second, he veered to his right, missing me by inches. “Sorry, he said, ‘my eyes’ were on that *cool red sports car* driving by.” It was quite evident at that particular moment; he was oblivious to what was coming straight ahead!

**What does this mean for us?**

**Obvious Signs Do Tell The Season**

 During this historical time of a “global pandemic,” it’s easy to become distracted, and lose one’s *spiritual* focus! Thousands of workers are losing, and have lost their jobs, and sources of income. Many front-line, essential workers and volunteers have become sick themselves, some losing their own lives, while protecting and caring for others. Protestors are demonstrating in the streets of some of our cities concerning their 1st amendment rights.

 The main question that we must ask ourselves during these trying times is; what are we looking at? What are we focused on? On the biased rhetoric of secular politicians and news reporters? On the U. S., state, and county governments’ economic issues? On this corrupt world, or the World to come? All of these concerns (some more legitimate than others) do have their place, but only one concern should occupy *first place* in the life of Bible-believing Christians. Jesus and His will, not ours!

 I am quite sure that Satan is having a good laugh at the behavior of some so-called Christians during this virus-related emergency. He is once again using a major crisis to his advantage. Sidetracking Christians, causing them to take their eyes off of Jesus, the Light, and putting them on self, and the “temporal securities” of this life! Please re-read Matthew 6:33 to refresh your memory.

**Good News!**

We have a Loving Savior who has forewarned us of times like these, urging us to be ready, “…When you shall see these things…” (Matt. 24:23, 33, 43, 44).

 The Scriptures state that God’s servant Joseph received the interpretation of Pharaoh’s dream from God, concerning a soon-coming, seven-year famine. Joseph took God’s Word seriously (See Gen. 41) warning Pharaoh to prepare for it! Pharaoh took the warning from God to His servant Joseph seriously and survived it, thus saving thousands of lives!

 Just to re-familiarize us with a well-known portion of Scripture, please re-read John 1 in its entirety!

“In Him was life; and the life was the ***Light*** of men, and the Word was made flesh, and dwelled among us…” John 1:4, 14 KJV (Emphasis supplied)

 **Staying focused**

A certain man, while walking to work in a major city one morning approached a traffic signal. Although the *light was red* all the people on his particular corner began crossing the busy street. He decided to join them, and stepped down from the curb putting one foot onto the street when he felt a gentle tug on the back of his suit jacket. He turned around and noticed a little old lady standing there, with a puzzled look on her face. “Where do you think you were going young man?” the lady inquired. “I was crossing the street with the rest of the people” he replied. “Didn’t you see that the light was red?” “Yes, but all the other people were crossing.” “Young man,” she said, “keep your eyes on the light-not on people!”

 Remember friends we are only pilgrims here; this place is not our permanent residence. We are looking forward to “heavenly Canaan.”

 Like Abraham, “… we look forward to a city which have foundations whose builder and maker is God.” [[1]](#footnote-1)

**More Good News!**

 “…As long as we keep our eyes on Jesus the Light, we are safe…” [[2]](#footnote-2)

1. Hebrews. 11:10. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. E. G. White. Early Writings, p. 14. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)