

Have You Become Desensitized to God's Word?

5/24/2020 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Wednesday night we asked the question, **How Do You Respond to God's Word?**
- We looked at the Parable of the Sower or as some would call it, the Parable of the Four Soils.
- The point was to see just how deep you allow God's Word to penetrate and take root in your life.
 - The hardened path soil doesn't even allow the seed to penetrate the soil, it just sits on top.
 - The rocky soil allows the seed to be sown very shallow, thus no root system can be formed.
 - The thorny soil allows the seed to be sown deep enough to have a root system, however the weeds rob the plant of its nutrients thus it cannot bear any fruit.
 - The good soil is tilled, has the rocks and weeds removed, and it ready for the seeds to be sown in a way that will bring a bountiful harvest. These are people that respond to God's Word by not only hearing it, but also applying it to their walk.
- This morning we are going to ask the question, **Have You Become Desensitized to God's Word?**
- **Desensitize** – to cause (someone or something) to react less to or be less affected by something.
- Have we heard certain things in the Bible so much, that we “react less to or are less affected” by them?
- How do you react to the following Scriptures?

John 3:16

¹⁶“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

Romans 8:28

²⁸And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Matthew 6:33-34

³³But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. ³⁴Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

John 14:1-4

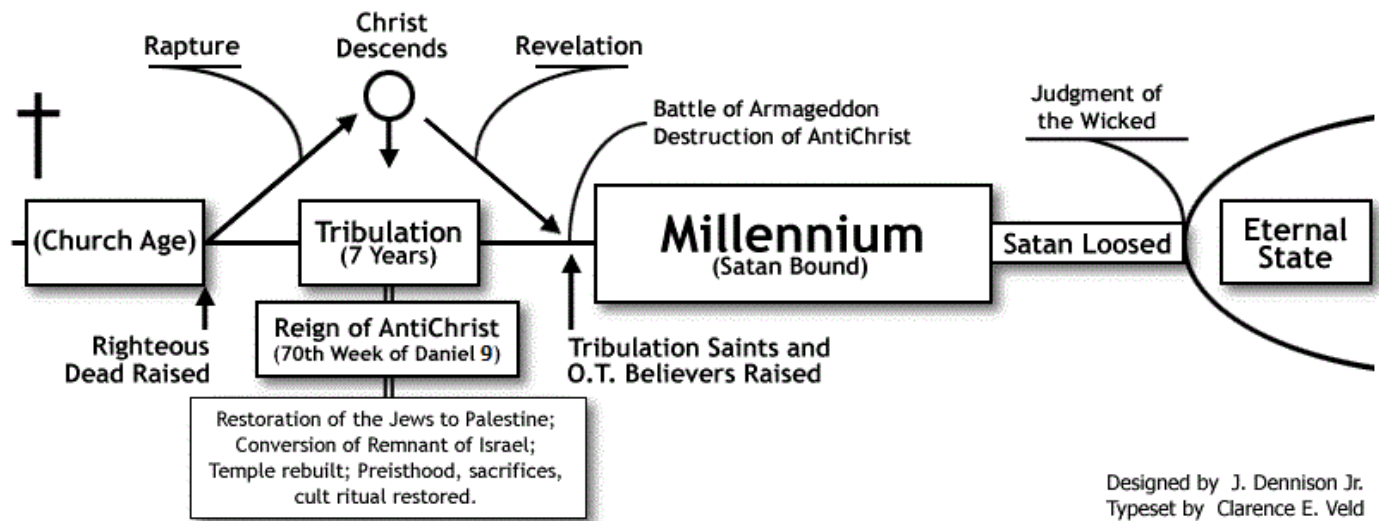
¹“Do not let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God; trust also in me. ²In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, I would have told you. I am going there to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Matthew 24:42-44

⁴²“Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come. ⁴³But understand this: If the owner of the house had known at what time of night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. ⁴⁴So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.

- These are just a few passages that people have heard many many times in church.
- Like anything else that we experience over and over, we start to become desensitized to how these verses affect us.
- It is not just these verses; this same thing can be said about God's Word in general for many people.
- This is especially a problem for people that have been Christians for many years.
- When you first come to Christ, you are usually fired up and excited about your newfound faith and you cannot get enough of what the Bible has to say.
- However, as time passes, we seem to become less excited about God's Word as we were when we first came to Christ
- That is when God usually sends us a “wake up call” in our lives.
- Many times, these things are personal and specific to us as individuals, and other times they are general and widespread “wake up calls” to a much larger audience.
- What we are experiencing right now all over the world is a widespread “wake up call” from God.
- The circumstances of this virus and how we as individuals and as a society as a whole are responding, is serving as a “wake up call” from God.
- It is causing many people to do a lot of “soul searching” and we are learning just how much we took for granted.

- During times of crisis like we have experienced over the past several months, we as Christians inevitably begin to think more about the End Times and the Return of Christ.
- The hope that we all hold on to is that this world is not our eternal home, so we begin to long even more for Christ to return to rescue us from the troubles we find ourselves in.
- However, it seems that we fail to remember how God's Word describes the times that lead up to his appearing.
- After hearing on many occasions that "we are living in the last days" and "Christ could rapture the Church at any moment," it seems that we have become desensitized to that.
- Not only does it not affect people much, but people really do not even know what they believe.
- This morning, I hope to get you to either think about these things for the first time, or to go you to reignite the fire.
- Below is a timeline of End Time events that represents extremely closely what most modern day evangelical Christians believe.
- Is this what you believe?



- This chart depicts what we call Dispensational Premillennialism.
 - We are living presently in the Church Age or the Age of Grace.
 - At any point, this age could end and then the rapture of the righteous dead and the Church would take place.
 - After that the seven-year tribulation which is described in **Daniel 9:24-27** as the seventieth week would take place. This is when the AntiChrist will reign.
 - The rapture taking place prior to the Tribulation describes the Pretribulation Rapture doctrine.
 - After the seven years of the tribulation, Christ will return in his Second Coming. The Battle of Armageddon will take place with the destruction of the AntiChrist. The people saved during the tribulation and OT believers will be raised at this point as well.
 - Then Christ will establish his kingdom on earth for 1000 years as described in **Revelation 20:1-6**, during which time Satan will be bound.
 - After the 1000-year period is over, Satan will be set free to "deceive the nations" once more, but is ultimately defeated and thrown into the Lake of Fire along with the AntiChrist and the false prophet.
 - Once Satan is defeated, the Great White Throne judgment of the wicked takes place.
 - Now that sin and evil have been taken care of, earth as we know it has been ultimately destroyed, and the New Heavens and the New Earth are created for us to live in for all eternity.
- As we read early on in **Matthew 24:42**, "Therefore keep watch, because you do not know on what day your Lord will come." We do not know when this day will be, however we are supposed to be keeping watch and being prepared.
- **How prepared do you feel right now?**
- What you believe about the End Times matters a great deal. When will the rapture take place? Before or after the Tribulation? Will it happen at all? What will the Tribulation look like? How will the AntiChrist take over the whole world? What is the Mark of the Beast? When is Christ's Second Coming? Is the 1000-year millennial reign of Christ, literal or figurative? When will the judgement(s) occur? What does our Eternal State look like?...
- How you answer these questions will determine your level of preparedness for the times to come. **How do you react to what the Bible says about the End Times?**