

THE TESTIMONY OF JESUS

Message Nine

**The Characteristics of the Men
Who Turn the Age**

Scripture Reading: Dan. 1:8; Matt. 7:13; 1 John 5:19; 2 Tim. 2:21-22; Rev. 18:4; Dan. 9:2; Eph. 6:17-18; Col. 3:16; Dan. 6:10; 1 Thes. 5:17; Acts 1:14; Dan. 1:12-13; Dan. 2:17-18; 9:19; 11:32; 3:17-18; Psa. 110:3

1. The first characteristic of men who turn the age is that they are separated persons—Dan. 1:8:

- A. We must know that everyone in this age is walking on the same road and is swept into the same current—a way that follows Satan—Matt. 7:13.
- B. This way was initiated by Satan, pioneered by Satan, far from God, and is always going downhill—1 John. 5:19; cf. 2 Pet. 2:15; 2 Tim. 3:1-3; Luke 10:30-31:
 - 1. Young people are most susceptible to follow others in their manner of living, feeling that since others can do something, they can do the same and since everyone else is doing it, it is all right for them to do it also—cf. 1 Pet. 4:4.
 - 2. Please remember that if we follow this way, we will become completely useless and can never be used by God to turn the age because we do not stand on God's side but on Satan's side—2 Tim. 2:21.
- C. Hence, we must have a separation from those in the world and stand up to be an anti-testimony for God by inwardly standing up against the tide and being different from this age—Rev. 18:4; 2 Tim. 2:22; cf. 2:13; Eph. 5:17-18; Dan. 1:20.

2. The second characteristic of ones used by God to turn the age are that they not only read God's Word regularly but are persons who are joined to God's Word—Dan. 9:2; cf. 2 Tim. 3:15-16:

- A. When we come to God's Word, we have to learn not to study for some scholarship or for some knowledge but to find out God's desire from His Word—cf. Luke 10:39-42; Matt. 26:6-13.
- B. Whenever we find out God's desire, we must immediately join ourselves to that desire to be His anti-testimony—Eph. 6:17-18; Col. 3:16; cf. Dan. 2:30.
 - 1. Many young brothers and sisters read the Bible regularly, but your reading of the Bible may not affect your living or join you to the Bible—instead your living remains totally separate from the Bible—cf. 2 Cor. 6:14.
 - 2. Such persons cannot turn the age and cannot be an anti-testimony in a degrading age—cf. Rev. 3:15-16.

3. The third characteristic of men used by God to turn the age is that they are persons always praying prayers that cooperate with God to turn the age—Dan. 6:10; Eph. 6:18; 1 Thess. 5:17; cf. Col. 4:2:

- A. The highest expression of a man who cooperates with God is prayer—Acts 1:14; cf. Acts 13:1-4; John 17.
- B. They believe absolutely in prayer declaring before God and Satan that they do not depend on worldly food and drink for the health of their body but only on God's care—Dan 1:12-13; cf. Matt. 6:33-34; Luke 12:13-21.
- C. They pray with their companions to afford God the highest cooperation and the highest coordination to do what man cannot do and to understand what man cannot understand so that the desire of God can be revealed and “printed” into them—Dan. 2:17-18.

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- D.They pray at set times to touch God's heart and fulfill His desire as their most important business, not allowing anything to interfere with their prayer—Dan. 6:10; cf. Acts 10:9.
- E.They meet God's need to have persons on the earth who cooperate with God to bring His will and His kingdom to the earth—cf. Dan. 9:2-19; Matt 6:9-12.
- F.They are constituted to be persistent praying persons who pray steadfastly against Satan's resistance—cf. Dan. 10:2-3, 12.
- G.Their prayer reaches the highest peak asking God to do something for Himself and for His sake – prayer that is totally for God and not for themselves—9:19.

4.The fourth characteristic of persons who are under God's hand and can be used by Him to turn the age is that they are self-sacrificing persons who do not care for their own life—Dan. 1:8-12; 3:17-18; cf. 2:12-13; 6:7-13:

- A.Everyone God uses to turn the age is afraid neither of heaven nor of hell and fears nothing except to offend God and to lose His presence—cf. Exo. 33:13-14.
- B.Everyone God uses to turn the age is bold not in a wild or natural way but because of their fear of God and their courage to confront difficulties—Dan. 11:32.
- C.God wants to gain absolute young people so that He can use them to turn the age; everyone who has received mercy from God today will surely respond to this matter and will surely want to touch God's desire, be voluntarily-consecrated ones, Nazarites, and be used by God as an anti-testimony in this ever-degrading age—Psa. 110:3; Dan. 9:23; 10:11, 19.

FOCUS: *The four characteristics of men who turn the age are that they are separated persons from the age, they see and join themselves to God's desire in the Word, they are praying persons that cooperate with God for His move on the earth, and they are self-sacrificing persons who give the Lord an upper room consecration for His interests on the earth.*

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Scripture Reading:

Dan. 1:8

But Daniel set his heart not to defile himself with the king's choice provision and with the wine that the king drank, so he requested of the leader of the eunuchs that he might not defile himself.

Matt. 7:13

Enter in through the narrow gate, for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter through it.

1 John 5:19

We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies in the evil one.

2 Tim. 2:21-22

21 If therefore anyone cleanses himself from these, he will be a vessel unto honor, sanctified, useful to the master, prepared unto every good work.

22 But flee youthful lusts, and pursue righteousness, faith, love, peace with those who call on the Lord out of a pure heart.

Rev. 18:4

And I heard another voice out of heaven, saying, Come out of her, My people, that you do not participate in her sins and that you do not receive her plagues.

Dan. 9:2

In the first year of his reign I, Daniel, understood by means of the Scriptures the number of the years, which came as the word of Jehovah to Jeremiah the prophet, for the completion of the desolations of Jerusalem, that is, seventy years.

Eph. 6:17-18

17 And receive the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which Spirit is the word of God,

18 By means of all prayer and petition, praying at every time in spirit and watching unto this in all perseverance and petition concerning all the saints.

Dan. 6:10

Now when Daniel came to know that the writing had been signed, he went to his house (in his upper room he had windows open toward Jerusalem) and three times daily he knelt on his knees and prayed and gave thanks before his God, because he had always done so previously.

Col. 3:16

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and admonishing one another with psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to God.

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1 Thes. 5:17

Unceasingly pray.

Acts 1:14

These all continued steadfastly with one accord in prayer, together with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers.

Dan. 1:12-13

- 12 Please test your servants for ten days, and let vegetables be given to us to eat and water to drink.
13 Then let our countenances be watched in your presence, as well as the countenances of the children who eat the king's choice provision; and do with your servants according to what you see.

Dan. 2:17-18

- 17 Then Daniel went to his house and made the thing known to Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah, his companions,
18 That they might request compassions from before the God of the heavens concerning this mystery so that Daniel and his companions would not be destroyed with the rest of the wise men of Babylon.

Dan. 9:19

O Lord, hear! O Lord, forgive! O Lord, listen and take action! Do not delay, for Your own sake, O my God; for Your city and Your people are called by Your own name.

Dan. 11:32b

But the people who know their God will show strength and take action.

Dan. 3:17-18

- 17 If it be so, our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the blazing furnace of fire, and He will deliver us out of your hand, O king.
18 But if He does not, let it be known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods nor worship the golden image that you have set up.

Psa. 110:3

Your people will offer themselves willingly / In the day of Your warfare, / In the splendor of their consecration. / Your young men will be to You / Like the dew from the womb of the dawn.

NAZARITE SONG

1. In this godless age
Lord, You need some Samuels
Burdened with a vision clear of Your economy

Where's Your ark today?
And the ones who'd care for You,
E'en to put themselves aside to gain Your heart's desire?

 Raise up some to meet Your need, some Nazarites
 Prophets, priests and judges, and men of prayer
 Speaking forth Your word, with Your authority
 A photo of Your heart for Your move.

2. Train us up today,
Full of vision, seeking You
We'd await Your timing, fully subject to Your will,

 Treasuring Your face,
 Staying in Your presence, Lord;
 E'en the very index of Your eyes would we obey.

 Raise up some to meet Your need, some Nazarites,
 To bring in Your kingdom on earth today;
 Taking You as King that You may return;
 To usher in the end of the age.

3. When God wants to move,
He must gain an instrument;
Overcomers separated from the current age.

 They have joined themselves
 Through His word to His desire.
 Overcomers constituted with the holy word.

 Raise up some to meet Your need, some Nazarites,
 Voluntary consecrated ones,
 Who through Your word are joined to Your desire;
 Your living testimony on the earth.

4. God needs men who pray;
Those who lay the tracks for Him;
God's economy is carried out through men of prayer.

 They love not themselves;
 But a willing sacrifice.
 What they fear—offending God, losing His presence dear.

 Make us those who meet Your need, the Nazarites.
 Make us those through whom You'd close this age;
 Who are one with You to bring the kingdom in,
 Young people absolute for Your move.

MARY Poured out her love offering

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- 1 Mary poured out her love offering
To many such love was a waste.
Throughout all of the centuries
Such lovers Your sweetness do taste.
Precious lives and heart treasures, too
Positions and golden futures,
Have been "wasted" on You, Lord;
Your sweetness a fragrance so sure.
She took opportunity
To love You; Lord, with her best.
Like her, Lord, I too would pour
My love and all that I have.

- 2 As I love You I set my being
My spirit, my soul and body.
With my heart, my mind, and my strength,
Absolutely on Thee.
Lord, I let my entire being
Be occupied by Thee
As I enter in Your heart
I sense a fellowship sweet.
Occupied and lost in You;
My Lord, You're my everything.
Fellowship so intimate;
In spirit Lord I enjoy Thee.

- 3 Lord there's none in heav'n nor on earth
That I desire but Thee.
Though my heart and flesh faileth, Lord,
Thou ever my portion will be.
All is vanity, all is dung;
I count all other things loss;
Everything else drains my love
But You have captured my heart.
Lord, I've seen Thy preciousness,
Thy worth, Thy reality.
Now, my Lord, I must confess
My heart is only for Thee.

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DEAREST LORD, YOU CALLED US HERE

- 1 Dearest Lord, You've called us here,
And opened up Your heart.
O the joy to hear Your call
And enter in the Ark.
Saving us from day to day
O Lord, this is Your way.
In Yourself we stay afloat,
Above this wicked age today.

Thank You Lord, in Your eyes we find grace,
And with open hearts we come to You.
Regardless what our friends might say to us or do,
O Lord Jesus, we love You.

- 2 Seeking of this age to taste,
And of it have a part.
If we only knew, dear Lord,
The ways we grieve Your heart.
We would come and turn to You
With a repenting heart,
And would give ourselves to be
With you, O Lord, inside the Ark.

- 3 Praise You Lord, we're safe in You;
Outside death-waters pour.
Many things that I once loved
Are on the ocean floor.
Keep us open to you Lord,
Don't let us miss the mark.
Hallelujah, praise the Lord,
We're here within the church, the Ark.

THE GOAL OF THE GOSPEL

The goal of the gospel is that,
Loving the Lord Jesus with the first love,
We would pour out upon Him, pour out upon Him
What is most precious to us;
Even our most costly and valuable spiritual treasures,
“Wasting” ourselves upon Him
Even our most costly and valuable spiritual treasures,
“Wasting” ourselves upon Him

WHAT THINGS WERE GAINS TO ME

1 What things were gains to me,
These I now count as loss.
Jesus has set me free
From what I was!
All of the things I had;
Everything, good or bad,
I count as refuse
That I may gain Christ!

I won't give up!
I will keep running until
I have attained
The goal of my calling!
I must press on!
I must pursue until
I lay hold of Him
Who laid hold of me!

2 Forget the things behind!
Stretch for the things before!
Press onward with this mind:
Always want more!
Seeking in Him to grow,
Increasingly to know
Him that I daily might
Be found in Christ.