

Faith Christian Fellowship
Sunday, May 3, 2015
Changing Church Challenges 2015

(1)

TEXT: 1 John 4:1-4 / Matthew 24:3-8

The end is near! The world we live in has some serious issues. Our country has changed radically in a very short while, and it is going to change faster. Our job is to overcome by the power of the Spirit in us, and not be deceived. We are here on a mission, and it is not to entertain ourselves with religious material, love a fulfilled life, or accumulate wealth. Sorry. If we plan to stand before the Lord, we need to be overcomers, and there is much to overcome.

- ❖ 3 areas of challenge that are already here.
 - Anti-Christ is on the move. The forces of darkness hate the Gospel, constantly looking for ways to destroy its messengers.
 - Deception if we don't have a love for truth: 1 Thess 2:9-10.
 - Conflicts and catastrophes:
 - Natural calamity
 - Wars and rumors
 - *Ethnos* against *ethnos* = racial and cultural divides. A revival of tribalism
 - *Basileia* against *basileia* (rule or realm) An increase in political divides.
- ❖ Our tribe:
 - We all started as one Acts 17:26-27
 - Note Gen 11:1-8. Our divisions are God given to prevent us from agreeing, and ruling the world Political tyrants still attempt to organize, unite and rule.
 - Cultural and racial divides will continue and worsen.
 - Three groups of people: 1 Cor 10:32b Jews, Gentiles, Church,
 - We are #3 on the list, but #1 in the light of eternity.
 - Galatians 3:28 No differences
 - 1 Peter 2:9-12 But you are a chosen generation (*genos*), a royal priesthood, a holy nation (*ethnos*), His own special

people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light; ...

- Separation on physical traits is simply carnal. 2 Cor 5:14-17

- **Here's the problem:** The antichrist spirit, knows all these things.
 - He works tirelessly to divide Christians. Js 3:16
 - He works to unite the world to build a name and rule. Nothing unites people like a common enemy.
 - For Islam, atheists, new agers, and communist tyrants, the common enemy is us!
- **Two great truths to remember:**
 - The world (unbelievers) hate you) John 15:18-19
 - God loves the world (unbelievers) thru you. 2 Cor 5:18-20

- ❖ The most obvious current manifestation:
 - Muslims: fight one another, but are united in their hatred of us.
 - We do not serve the same God!!!! Allah is not Jehovah. No Bible, No trinity, No changeless truth, no divine Jesus, no crucifixion = no salvation
 - Don't be shocked at their hatred! 1 Peter 4:12-14
 - Don't allow their hatred to infect you: Matthew 5:43-48
 - Number one way to love an unbeliever? Mark 16:15-16 / 1Cor 15:1-9.....

Meditation for this week: Our Commission

Psalms 96:1-13 Oh, **sing** to the LORD a new song! Sing to the LORD, all the earth. (2) **Sing** to the LORD, bless His name; **Proclaim** the good news of His salvation from day to day. (3) **Declare** His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples. (4) For the LORD is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods. (5) For all the gods of the peoples are idols, But the LORD made the heavens. (6) Honor and majesty are before Him; Strength and beauty are in His sanctuary. (7) **Give to the LORD**, O families of the peoples, **Give to the LORD** glory and strength. (8) **Give to the LORD** the glory due His name; **Bring an offering, and come** into His courts. (9) **Oh, worship the LORD** in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth. (10) **Say among the nations**, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, It shall not be moved; He shall judge the peoples righteously." (11) Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; (12) Let the field be joyful, and

all that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD. (13) For **He is coming**, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness. And the peoples with His truth.