

Precautions for Upcoming Persecution and Maintaining Determined Hope

I have shared with the class that it is my personal opinion, based both upon certain sections of the Bible (Matthew 24:14; Luke 21:24; 2 Timothy 3:1-5, etc..) and the advances I foresee in technology (personal data collecting and IA) that we may be moving into “the season of the end” (Luke 21:28) without knowing the day of Jesus return. I may be wrong ... I cannot state that clearly enough.

But if I am wrong, we still need to prepare for unprecedented persecution for those seeking to be true disciples, holding to Biblical morality in the USA. I hope I am wrong and the current cultural upheaval leads to repentance, revival and renewal. I am preparing to be faithful and help lead faithful people *in the upcoming difficulties* - and I *am hoping and praying that it leads to a time of revival – that God gives us more time to reach more people.*

But here is what I see - people and churches that hold to traditional Biblical morality will be soon facing increasing persecution because of the advancement of Critical Theory and the pressure everyone will face to tow the line on cultural Marxism.

If you have not read it, please read and share “**The Slow March Through the Institutions of Society**” <https://renew.org/the-long-march-through-the-institutions-of-society/>

Here are five specific things I want to encourage everyone to consider right now.

1. Watch Your Public Data – You Can Be Cancelled.

Think about the advancement of technology *in the next 20 years* (it is helpful to ask everyone to think back to google, iPhones, and [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) 20 years ago and then extrapolate that to 20 years from now).

- Protect your passwords by making each on unique – I just started using <https://vault.bitwarden.com/>
- Subscribe to a Virtual Private Network like Express VPN – they will provide some significant shielding for your online activity.
- Watch your FaceBook/Twitter/Instagram information – either get off or learn to be very careful.
 - Dozens lost their jobs for objecting to the organization – not the name, but the organization – Black Live Matter on their personal **FaceBook** pages.
 - If it can happen to Dr. Suess, it can happen to you.

Ask: how could a future hostile entity with **AI (Artificial Intelligence) use my information** or my children’s information or grandchildren’s information in the future? I recently made the decision to NOT post pictures of my grandchildren (IA will try to watch their every move in 15 years).

Consider the seemingly radical reflections of a Rod Dreher post just two weeks ago entitled, “**How to Prepare for the Coming Crackdown**” - <https://www.theamericanconservative.com/dreher/how-to-prepare-for-coming-crackdown-live-not-by-lies/>

2. **Prayerfully Consider Future Employment.**

I am very close to a young man who works at Walmart. He is a math wizard who was recruited about 10 years ago and now runs one of their divisions. When asked at the end of February if Walmart would be able to grow

to the point of providing competition to [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com) (which sells 83% of all books sold in the USA and recently started refusing some books that support traditional Christian morality).

He gave an interesting and concerning response:

- Walmart is just as “woke” as any corporation. Since last summer he has been required to attend many classes on Intersectionality, Critical Race Theory, etc.,.
- Recently they laid off many people - they chose all the white men in his department.
- They will be having an open conversation on LGBTQ issues with a liberal pastor. “We know the acceptable perspective,” he said. “We also know that everyone who does not parrot that perspective will be marked.”

He is planning to find employment in a smaller company where he can safely maintain his private Christian beliefs.

3. Disciples of Jesus Should Consider Starting Small Businesses

We are working on an incubator project to encourage starting small businesses that will have the ability to shield people from the coming pressure in larger companies (see #4 below). If you want to help with this incubator, email info@renew.org

4. Watch Your Financial Decisions

A few banks recently made noises about “not supporting hate groups.” Literally, in the future, if you hold to traditional Christian morality, you may have difficulty finding a bank or credit union. Put your finances in places that will provide protection in difficult times.

To help with what I anticipate, a good friend and supporter of [Renew.org](https://www.renew.org) is pursuing transitioning a credit union to become a [Renew.org](https://www.renew.org) Credit Union. We are just looking at this plan, but he thinks the opportunity could soon present itself. If you are interested email info@renew.org

5. Hold Determined-Hope

Jesus is coming back. He will renew all things.

Acts 3:19-21 - Repent, then, and turn to God, so that your sins may be wiped out, that times of refreshing may come from the Lord, and that he may send the Messiah, who has been appointed for you—even Jesus. Heaven must receive him until the time comes for God to restore everything, as he promised long ago through his holy prophets.

Psalms 121:1-6 - The LORD watches over you—the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm—he will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.

When Jesus Returns

Revelation 20 ¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹² **And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books.** ¹³ The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and **each person was judged according to what they had done.** ¹⁴ Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵ **Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.**

Revelation 21 Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth,”^(a) **for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.** ² I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “**Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and he will dwell with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.**” ⁴ **‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’^(b) or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

⁵ He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!” Then he said, “Write this down, for these words are trustworthy and true.”

⁶ He said to me: “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. **To the thirsty I will give water without cost from the spring of the water of life.**” ⁷ **Those who are victorious will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be my children.** ⁸ But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts, the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”

The New Jerusalem, the Bride of the Lamb

⁹ One of the seven angels who had the seven bowls full of the seven last plagues came and said to me, “**Come, I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb.**” ¹⁰ **And he carried me away in the Spirit to a mountain great and high, and showed me the Holy City, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God.** ¹¹ It shone with the glory of God, and its brilliance was like that of a very precious jewel, like a jasper, clear as crystal. ¹² **It had a great, high wall with twelve gates, and with twelve angels at the gates. On the gates were written the names of the twelve tribes of Israel.** ¹³ There were three gates on the east, three on the north, three on the south and three on the west. ¹⁴ The wall of the city had twelve foundations, and on them were the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

¹⁵ The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod of gold to measure the city, its gates and its walls. ¹⁶ **The city was laid out like a square, as long as it was wide. He measured the city with the**

rod and found it to be 12,000 stadia[□] in length, and as wide and high as it is long. ¹⁷ The angel measured the wall using human measurement, and it was 144 cubits[□] thick.[□] ¹⁸ The wall was made of jasper, and the city of pure gold, as pure as glass. ¹⁹ The foundations of the city walls were decorated with every kind of precious stone. The first foundation was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, ²⁰ the fifth onyx, the sixth ruby, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth turquoise, the eleventh jacinth, and the twelfth amethyst.[□] ²¹ The twelve gates were twelve pearls, each gate made of a single pearl. The great street of the city was of gold, as pure as transparent glass.

²² I did not see a temple in the city, because the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. ²³ The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. ²⁴ The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. ²⁵ On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. **²⁶ The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.** ²⁷ Nothing impure will ever enter it, nor will anyone who does what is shameful or deceitful, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22 Then the angel showed me the river of the water of life, as clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb ² down the middle of the great street of the city. **On each side of the river stood the tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, yielding its fruit every month. And the leaves of the tree are for the healing of the nations.** ³ **No longer will there be any curse.** The throne of God and of the Lamb will be in the city, and his servants will serve him. ⁴ **They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.** ⁵ There will be no more night. They will not need the light of a lamp or the light of the sun, for the Lord God will give them light. **And they will reign for ever and ever.**

John and the Angel

⁶ The angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true. The Lord, the God who inspires the prophets, sent his angel to show his servants the things that must soon take place."

⁷ "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed is the one who keeps the words of the prophecy written in this scroll."

⁸ I, John, am the one who heard and saw these things. And when I had heard and seen them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who had been showing them to me. ⁹ But he said to me, "Don't do that! I am a fellow servant with you and with your fellow prophets and with all who keep the words of this scroll. Worship God!"

¹⁰ Then he told me, "Do not seal up the words of the prophecy of this scroll, because the time is near. ¹¹ Let the one who does wrong continue to do wrong; let the vile person continue to be vile; let the one who does right continue to do right; and let the holy person continue to be holy."

Epilogue: Invitation and Warning

12 "Look, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to each person according to what they have done. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

14 "Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. 15 Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you^u this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, and the bright Morning Star."

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come!" And let the one who hears say, "Come!" Let the one who is thirsty come; and let the one who wishes take the free gift of the water of life.

18 I warn everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this scroll: If anyone adds anything to them, God will add to that person the plagues described in this scroll. 19 And if anyone takes words away from this scroll of prophecy, God will take away from that person any share in the tree of life and in the Holy City, which are described in this scroll.

20 He who testifies to these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon."

Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.

21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with God's people. Amen.