

July 14, 2024
Matthew 24:9-14
Stand Your Ground

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICAL APPLICATION

In this passage it is clear that: persecution, defection, and deception will run rampant in the church. When the Holy Spirit withdraws His restraint and Satan is allowed greater freedom, the saints will suffer as they never have before, see **II Thessalonians 2:6-7**.

You will be delivered up to: tribunals, courts, police, and probably to mobs as was Paul. The pressure will be on and as a result, they will kill you. Remember Stephen and James we just read about in the book of Acts? More recently, remember the pro- Palestinian Mobs? It doesn't take a lot of imagination to see this happening.

To upset many, false prophets will arise. They are not false messiahs like in **verse 5**, these false teachers will work hard to get a following, and become a sect. Some pervert the truth in a huge way, others are just as guilty by being "lesser errorists" to make their errors seem the more innocent, more palatable.

When people defect from the sound doctrine of the Word this laxity automatically causes moral defection and laziness in ones perimeters of life. No sound doctrine leads to a seared conscience. Lawlessness will be multiplied. Hearts will become cold.

V 13, is the bright spot, in spite of this opposition the church of true believers will endure. This is singular, it is each person, disciple, think of yourself. Stand your ground. "To endure means to bear whatever a true confession of Christ brings upon us." These words are all in all, "will be saved." What a glorious promise.

The gospel will be preached in the whole world, many will be saved even during the tribulation. See **Revelation 7:9-10**. To reject the good news leaves one self-condemned.

Application:

The one who endures to the end is the overcomer, the beloved of God. They do not fear suffering or death because they are sustained by the Holy Spirit of God Who indwells them. Many will defect, Jesus is simply purifying the body of believers of those who profess but do not possess. Persecution, physical violence, and deception are tools used to weed out the fakers, the result is a great falling away. The gospel brings either salvation or a curse, depending on how it is received. How is your receptor?