



Wise Counsel For Living In The Last Days

“Jesus is God”

John 14:25

Introduction

Comfort for the Righteous: John 14:1-7

Counsel for the Righteous: John 14:8-31

In **John 14:8-31** Jesus gives us **“Wise Counsel For Living In The Days”**

Scripture

“I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you.” CSB

Quote Of The Day

“The Bible was not given for our information but for our transformation.” Dwight L. Moody

Jesus was a master teacher and communicator. In this passage of Scripture Jesus gave His disciples **“Wise Counsel for Living in the Last Days.”**

In the last days remember:

1. Jesus is God vv.8-11

“Lord,” said Philip, “show us the Father, and that’s enough for us.” 9 Jesus said to him, “Have I been among you all this time and you do not know me, Philip? The one who has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say,

‘Show us the Father’? 10 Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own. The Father who lives in me does his works. 11 Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, believe because of the works themselves.” CSB

“Jesus is God” is the purpose and theme of the Book of John.

John 20:31 “But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God,, and that by believing you may have life in his name..” CSB

Isaiah 7:14 “Therefore, the LORD Himself will give you a sign: See, the virgin will conceive, have a son, and name him Immanuel. CSB

Matthew 1:23 “See, the virgin will become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they will name him Immanuel,” CSB

He will be called Immanuel— “That is God and He is with us.”

Jesus knew that He would soon be gone from this life and Jesus wanted His disciples to remember He and the Father are ONE.

Two reasons we know Jesus is God:

His Words v.10

Don’t you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? **The words I speak to you I do not speak on my own.** The Father who lives in me does His works. CSB

Philosopher Emile Cailliet was born in a small French village near the end of the 19th century. His early education was committed to naturalism, leaving no room for God or supernatural intervention in human affairs. But his naturalistic philosophy proved of little help during his front-line experiences as a young 20 year old in World War I. His best friend was talking to him about his mother when he was struck with a sniper’s bullet and was killed right in front of him. Was there a meaning to it all? A person

can endure anything if only it appears meaningful.... I, too, felt—not with my reason, but with my whole being—that I was naked and, war or no war, destined to perish miserably when the hour came.

One night a bullet found Cailliet, too. An American field ambulance crew saved his life, and after a nine-month hospital stay, he was discharged and resumed his graduate studies. But he had to admit that the books no longer seemed like the same books, nor was his motivation the same. Reading at length in philosophy and literature, he found himself probing in depth for meaning.

He testified: During long night watches in the foxholes I had in a strange way been longing—I must say it, however strange it may sound—for a book that would understand me. But I knew of no such book.

So Cailliet began his own search for meaning. He created a book of philosophy for his own private use. After much study, meditation and introspection he put the finishing touches on his book and said “This is the book that understands me.”

Cailliet described a beautiful, sunny day in which he sat under a tree and opened his personal and precious memoir. As he read his own thoughts he was overcome by growing disappointment and despair. Instead of speaking to his condition as he expected, his passages only reminded him of his hollow existence. Cailliet realized his personal philosophy was of no value because it carried no strength of persuasion. In a dejected mood, he put his little book back into his pocket.

On that same day, Cailliet's wife had come into the possession of a Bible by extraordinary circumstances. Emile had always been adamant that religion would be taboo in their home, and at the age of 23 had never even seen a Bible. But at the end of that disappointing day, he picked up that Bible, he was eager to see it. He described what happened next:

I literally grabbed the Bible and rushed to my study with it. I opened it and began reading the gospel of Matthew where I read the Beatitudes. I read and read and read—now aloud with an indescribable warmth surging within my soul I could not find words to express my awe and wonder. And suddenly the realization dawned upon me: **This is the Book that understands me!**

I needed it so much, yet, unaware, I had attempted to write my own—in vain. I continued to read deeply into the night, mostly from the Gospels. And lo and behold, as I read the pages of God's Word, the One of whom they wrote about, was the One who began to speak to me. **As I read the**

Words of God Jesus became alive in me. Citation: Emile Cailliet, *Journey into Light* (Zondervan, 1968), p. 12-18

John 6:63-69 Jesus said: “The Spirit is the one who gives life. The flesh doesn’t help at all. The words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life. 64 But there are some among you who don’t believe.” (For Jesus knew from the beginning those who did not believe and the one who would betray him.) 65 He said, “This is why I told you that no one can come to me unless it is granted to him by the Father.” 66 From that moment many of His disciples turned back and no longer accompanied Him. 67 So Jesus said to the Twelve, “You don’t want to go away too, do you?” 68 Simon Peter answered, “Lord, to whom will we go? You have the words of eternal life. 69 We have come to believe and know that you are the Holy One of God.” CSB

The Words of Jesus are the very Words of God!

Seven principles we need to know about the Word of God:

- 1. The Word of God is Inspired**
- 2. The Word of God is True**
- 3. The Word of God is Timeless**
- 4. The Word of God is Beneficial**
- 5. The Word of God is Powerful**
- 6. The Word of God is Transformational**
- 7. The Word of God is the Standard by which Every Person will be Judged**

Seven principles we need to know about the Word of God:

1. The Word of God is Inspired

2 Peter 1:20-21 “Above all, you know this: No prophecy of Scripture comes from the prophet’s own interpretation, 21 because no prophecy ever came by the will of man; instead, men spoke from God as they were carried along by the Holy Spirit.” CSB

2 Timothy 3:16 “All Scripture is inspired by God . . .” CSB

Seven Principles we need to know about the Word of God:

2. The Word of God is True

Psalm 119:160 “The entirety of your word is truth, each of your righteous judgments endures forever.” CSB

Because the Word of God is truth we must seek to apply the principles of God’s Word and obey them.

1 Samuel 15:22-23 “Then Samuel said: Does the LORD take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the LORD? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams. 23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination, and defiance is like wickedness and idolatry . . .”

In the American frontier days, there was a settlement in the West whose citizens were engaged in the lumber business. The town felt they wanted a church. They built a building and called a minister. The preacher moved into the settlement and initially was well received. Then one afternoon he happened to see some of his parishioners dragging some logs, which had been floated down the river from another village upstream, onto the bank. Each log was marked with the owner's stamp on one end. To his great distress, the minister saw his members pulling in the logs and sawing off the end where the telltale stamp appeared.

The following Sunday he preached a strong sermon on the commandment "Thou shall not steal." At the close of the service, his people lined up and offered enthusiastic congratulations: "Wonderful message, Pastor."

"Mighty fine preaching." "Keep up the good work."

It wasn't the response he expected, so he went home to prepare his sermon for the following Sunday. He preached on the same text, the same commandment, but gave it a different ending. He said, "Yes, thou shall not steal, but thou shall also not cut off the end of thy neighbor's logs." When he got through, the congregation ran him out of town. Citation:Haddon Robinson, "Grace and Truth in Application," PreachingToday.com

Reading, listening to and obey God's Word is much more important than performing religious rituals, tradition or sacrifices.

Seven Principles we need to know about the Word of God:

3. The Word of God is Timeless

Psalm 119:160 “The entirety of your word is truth, **each of your righteous judgments endures forever.**” CSB

Isaiah 40:8 “The grass withers, the flowers fade, but the word of our God remains forever.” CSB

Matthew 5:17-18 Jesus said “Don’t think that I came to abolish the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to abolish but to fulfill. 18 For truly I tell you, until heaven and earth pass away, not the smallest letter or one stroke of a letter will pass away from the law until all things are accomplished.” CSB

Seven Principles we need to know about the Word of God:

4. The Word of God is Beneficial

2 Timothy 3:16-17 “All Scripture is inspired by God, and is profitable for teaching, for rebuking, for correcting, for training in righteousness, 17 so that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.” CSB

The term translated “**profitable**” comes from the Greek word “**Ophelimos**” meaning beneficial or advantageous.

If we want to live an extraordinary life of purpose, satisfaction, fulfillment, joy, hope, peace and wisdom— we would do well to read, meditate, memorize and apply the wisdom of the Bible to our life.

Luke 11:28 Jesus said “. . . blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it.” CSB

Seven Principles we need to know about the Word of God:

5. The Word of God is Powerful

Hebrews 4:12 “For the word of God is living and effective and sharper than any double-edged sword, penetrating as far as the separation of soul and spirit, joints and marrow. It is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.” CSB

In 2012 seventy-five year old Marion Shurtleff purchased a Bible in a used book store near her home in San Clemente, California. After making her purchase and returning home, she discovered a couple of folded pages tucked in the middle of the Bible.

The contents of the yellowed notebook sheets contained a child's handwriting that looked familiar.

To her amazement, Shurtleff discovered her name at the top of the first page. When she looked closer she realized that she was actually reading a four-page essay she had written as a ten-year-old to earn a merit badge for the Girls Scouts in Covington, Kentucky—more than 2,000 miles from where she had just purchased the Bible.

By her own account, Shurtleff was deeply moved. "I opened the Bible and there was my name," Shurtleff said in a phone interview from her home. "I recognized my handwriting. I was shaking, literally. I was crying.

Although it remains a mystery how the essay ended up in a Bible in a used bookstore half way across the country, one thing is certain. When we look deeply into God's Word we see our lives, too. In the pages of Scripture we see individuals just like us—people who pursue faith and hope in God, people who also battle depression, doubt, temptation and pride. As we read the biblical stories about Abraham, Ruth, David, Mary, and Peter we also recognize our own life story. Citation: Brian Mains, "Marion Shurtleff makes amazing discovery in used Bible, finds childhood essay she wrote 65 years ago," WCPO Digital (5-28-13).

The Word of God has the power to reach into the depths of our soul and speak to us, comfort us, challenge us, convict us and change us.

Seven Principles we need to know about the Word of God:

6. The Word of God is Transformational

Ephesians 4:21-24 “. . . assuming you heard about Him and were taught by Him, as the truth is in Jesus, 22 to take off, your former way of life, the old self that is corrupted by deceitful desires, 23 to be renewed in the spirit of your minds, 24 and to put on, the new self, the one created according to God’s likeness in righteousness and purity of the truth.” CSB

Psalm 119:105 “Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.” CSB

When we read and meditate on the Word of God it gives us wisdom that leads to personal transformation.

What does real, biblical, transformation really look like?

In October 1999 Matthew Engelke interviewed Gaylord Kambarami, general secretary of the Bible Society of Zimbabwe made the following statement: “The Bible transforms people’s lives.” “When you read the Bible, things start to change in you.”

Gaylord Kambarami shared this story to illustrate the Transformational Power of the Word of God. “In 1995 I went to the Murewa rural areas to distribute copies of the New Testament. In one village, a headman refused to take it. He said he couldn’t stand the Word of God. I said, “Why?” And he said, “Because it pollutes people.” So he refused to buy it. I told him that he could have it and just give it to someone else. He said he could only accept the Bible if I allowed him to use the pages of the New Testament for rolling papers to smoke cigarettes. Back in those days people used newspaper and whatever else they can find to roll their cigarettes. I said, “Fine, on one condition: read each page before you smoke it.” He agreed to the terms and accepted the Bible.

So I left the book with him and didn’t think about it very much after that. Then, in 1997, I took a return trip to Murewa area. We had a convention there under a big tent. I was invited to speak, and I told the people how this book could change people’s lives. Now, the same man whom I had given

the New Testament to smoke was in the audience. Before the closing of the service, he stood and said, “Please, let me say a few words to Mr. Kambarami.” “Mr. Kambarami doesn’t remember me; because when I last saw him I was a drunkard. One day he came to our village and persuaded me to take a Bible. I told him I would use the paper to roll cigarettes. But I promised to read each page before doing so, which I did. So I smoked my way through Matthew. I smoked Mark, I smoked Luke. Then I started smoking my way through John. When I came to **John 3:16 For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.**” I Stopped smoking the Word of God, the light turned on in my soul, I committed my life to Christ and now my life is transformed! I am not the same person I used to be, because of the Word of God. Citation: Matthew Engelke in his book— A Problem Of Presence: Beyond Scripture In An African Church, 2007.

Just like the man who read and then smoked the pages of God’s Word and was transformed—God has the desire and the power to transform our lives for our good and His glory.

Seven Principles we need to know about the Word of God:

7. The Word of God is the Standard by which Every Person will be Judged

There is coming a time when everyone will be judged

Hebrews 4:13 “No creature is hidden from him, but all things are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give an account.” CSB

Judgment for the Righteous

2 Corinthians 5:10 “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each may be repaid for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.” CSB

Judgment for the Unrighteous

John 12:48 “The one who rejects me and doesn’t receive my sayings has this as his judge: The word I have spoken will judge him on the last day.”
CSB