



Wise Counsel For Living In The Last Days

“Jesus is God II”

John 14:25, 29

Angela's Announcement

Introduction

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

In the Last Days remember— Jesus is God.

We know Jesus is God because of His Words.

We know Jesus is God because of His Works

Scripture

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

29 “I have told you now before it happens so that when it does happen you may believe.” CSB

Quote Of The Day

“Christianity, if false, is of no importance, and if true, of infinite importance. The only thing it cannot be is moderately important.” — C.S. Lewis

We know Jesus is God because of His Words, we know Jesus is God because of:

His Works v.11

“Believe me that I am in the Father and the Father is in me. Otherwise, **believe because of the works themselves.**” CSB

The Words of Jesus prove that He is God and His Works prove that Jesus is God as well.

Jesus was literally saying, “Don’t just believe me because of my Words, **Believe my works.**”

The word translated “**works**” comes from the Greek term “**Ergon**” meaning the activity, deeds and actions that lead to practical proof. Significant accomplishments, actions that exhibit consistent moral character.

The Works of Jesus prove He is God in at least three ways:

1. The Works of Jesus reveal the Presence of God

2. The Works of Jesus reveal the Power of God

3. The Works of Jesus reveal the Purpose of God

The New Testament contains many references that reveal the works of Jesus.

Matthew 11:4-6 “Jesus replied to them,— (the disciples of John the Baptist who had asked if Jesus was the ONE they were looking for) “Go and report to John what you hear and see: 5 The blind receive their sight, the lame walk, those with leprosy are cleansed, the deaf hear, the dead are raised, and the poor are told the good news, 6 and blessed is the one who isn’t offended by me.” CSB

John 10:37-38 “If I am not doing my Father’s works, don’t believe me. 38 But if I am doing them and you don’t believe me, believe the works. This way you will know and understand that the Father is in me and I in the Father.” CSB

Acts 2:22-24 Peter said this about Jesus: “Fellow Israelites, listen to these words: This Jesus of Nazareth was a man attested to you by God with miracles, wonders, and signs that God did among you through him, just as you yourselves know. 23 Though he was delivered up according to God’s determined plan and foreknowledge, you used lawless people to nail him to a cross and kill him. 24 God raised him up, ending the pains of death, because it was not possible for him to be held by death.” CSB

Colossians 2:9 “For the entire fullness of God’s nature dwells bodily in Christ,” CSB

We know Jesus is God because of His Works.

How do We Recognize God’s Presence, God’s Power and God’s Purpose in our life?

We Recognize God’s Presence, God’s Power and God’s Purpose at work in our lives in at least five ways:

- 1. We will see what we are looking for**
- 2. The Works of God come alive in our human experience**
- 3. God answers prayer**
- 4. We experience Divine Providence in our life**
- 5. Spiritual Transformation**

We Recognize God’s Presence, God’s Power and God’s Purpose in our life in at least five ways:

1. We will see what we are looking for

We know God is present and working in our life when we see what we are looking for.

We Recognize the Work of God in Nature

John 1:1-2 “In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. 2 He was with God in the beginning. 3 All things were created through him, and apart from him not one thing was created that has been created.” CSB

Colossians 1:15-17 “Jesus is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. 16 For everything was created by him, in heaven and on earth, the visible and the invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through him and for him. 17 He is before all things, and by him all things hold together.” CSB

Psalms 19:1-6 “The heavens declare the glory of God, and the expanse proclaims the work of his hands. 2 Day after day they pour out speech; night after night they communicate knowledge. 3 There is no speech; there are no words; their voice is not heard. 4 Their message has gone out to the whole earth, and their words to the ends of the world. In the heavens he has pitched a tent for the sun. 5 It is like a bridegroom coming from his home; it rejoices like an athlete running a course. 6 It rises from one end of the heavens and circles to their other end; nothing is hidden from its heat.” CSB

Romans 1:18-20 “For God’s wrath is revealed from heaven against all godlessness and unrighteousness of people who by their unrighteousness suppress the truth, 19 since **what can be known about God is evident among them, because God has shown it to them.** 20 For his invisible attributes, that is, his eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen since the creation of the world, being understood through what he has made. As a result, people are without excuse.” CSB

If you want to see the power of God at work in creation and nature I encourage you— go to the Zoo, go to the mountains, go to the beach, observe a sunrise, a sunset, gaze into the starry night.

Patrick O'Boyle recalls the late-1940s Hyde Park "Speakers' Corner" appearances of Frank Sheed, the Catholic author and publisher: Sheed could be devastating with hecklers. Once, after Sheed had described the extraordinary order and design to be seen in the universe, a persistent challenger retorted by pointing to all the world's ills, and ended shouting, "I could make a better universe than your God!"

"I won't ask you to make a universe," Sheed replied. "But would you make a rabbit—just to establish confidence?" Citation: Christianity Today (4-23-99), reprinted in "To Illustrate Plus," Leadership Journal (21.1), p. 69

When we recognize God's Works in creation we realize He is the creator and we are that which has been created. We stand in awe, wonder, amazement and humility.

We Recognize God's Presence, God's Power and God's Purpose in our life in at least five ways:

2. The Works of God come alive in our human experience

The Works of God come alive in our human experience through:

A. God's Grace

Matthew 5:43-45 "You have heard that it was said, Love your neighbor, and hate your enemy. 44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 so that you may be children of your Father in heaven. For he causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous." CSB

Sovereign Grace—

Saving Grace—

The Works of God come alive in our human experience through:

B. God's Blessing

James 1:17 “Every good and perfect gift is from above, coming down from the Father of lights, who does not change like shifting shadows.” CSB

It is good to recognize and thank God for His blessings.

Gipsy Smith, a famous evangelist of early 1900's, said of this song, "Men sing it, boys whistle it and women rock their babies to sleep to it."

The song was written by Johnson Oatman, Jr., (1856-1922). John's father was the best singer in Lumberton New Jersey, where he grew up. John was not a chip off the old block— John did not have a rich, powerful and bold voice like his father. Matter of fact John couldn't even carry a tune. Knowing he was not a good singer did not stop him from having significant influence through song. John became a prolific songwriter. He discovered the gift within him and he shared the Good News of Jesus through song. In his lifetime John more than 5,000 hymns. Some of the hymns he wrote have been sung all over the world. The song he wrote about giving thanks is titled “Count Your Blessings,” written in 1897. Citation: hymnallibrary.org “Count Your Blessings,” published 1897, John Oatman jr.

John wrote “Count Your Blessings” to remind himself and others do not take God's blessings for granted.

1. When upon life's billows you are tempest tossed,
When you are discouraged, thinking all is lost,
Count your many blessings, name them one by one,
And it will surprise you what the Lord hath done.

4. So, amid the conflict, whether great or small,
Do not be discouraged, God is over all;
Count your many blessings, angels will attend,
Help and comfort give you to your journey's end.

Chorus:

Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your blessings, see what God hath done;
Count your blessings, name them one by one;
Count your many blessings, see what God hath done.

The Works of God come alive in our human experience through:

C. God's Purpose for our life

Ephesians 2:10 “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared ahead of time for us to do.” CSB

James 1:2-4 “Consider it a great joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you experience various trials, 3 because you know that the testing of your faith produces endurance. 4 And let endurance have its full effect, so that you may be mature and complete, lacking nothing.” CSB

God is always working in our life because He has purpose and plans for our life.

“It’s crazy, if you think about it. The God of the universe— the creator of nitrogen and pine needles, galaxies and E-minor— loves us with a radical, unconditional, self-sacrificing love. And what is our typical response? We go to church, sing songs and try not cuss.”— Francis Chan

We Recognize God’s Presence, God’s Power and God’s Purpose in our life in at least five ways:

3. God answers prayer

We know God is present and working in our lives when He answers prayer.

1 John 5:14-15 “This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us. 15 And if we know that he hears whatever we ask, we know that we have what we have asked of him.” CSB

God answers Prayer— Lee Horne at MD Anderson Hospital

We Recognize God's Presence, God's Power and God's Purpose in our life in at least five ways:

4. We experience Divine Providence in our life

We know God is present and working in our lives when we experience the Divine Providence of God in our life.

Matthew 6:25-34 “Therefore I tell you: Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Isn't life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Consider the birds of the sky: They don't sow or reap or gather into barns, yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? 27 Can any of you add one moment to his life span by worrying? 28 And why do you worry about clothes? Observe how the wildflowers of the field grow: They don't labor or spin thread. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was adorned like one of these. 30 If that's how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and thrown into the furnace tomorrow, won't he do much more for you—you of little faith? 31 So don't worry, saying, 'What will we eat?' or 'What will we drink?' or 'What will we wear?' 32 For the Gentiles eagerly seek all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things will be provided for you. 34 Therefore don't worry about tomorrow, because tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.” CSB

Angela and I have experience the Divine Providence of God many times in our life.

We Recognize God's Presence, God's Power and God's Purpose in our life in at least five ways:

5. Spiritual Transformation

We know God is present and working in our lives when we experience spiritual transformation that completely changes our life.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “ . . . if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has passed away, and see, the new has come!” CSB

Romans 12:1-2 “ . . . brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship. 2 Do not be conformed to this age, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may discern what is the good, pleasing, and perfect will of God.” CSB

If there is no change in our life then there has been no change in our life.

In the last days remember:

2. The Mission of the Righteous v.12

“Truly I tell you, **the one who believes in me will also do the works that I do.** And he will do even greater works than these, because I am going to the Father.” CSB

Every follower of Christ is called to be on mission!

Jesus is no longer with us on the earth— He has called every Christ follower to accomplish His work and advance His Kingdom on the earth.

In **Matthew 28:18-20** Jesus said: “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. 19 Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe everything I have commanded you. And remember, I am with you always, to the end of the age.” CSB

Every Christ follower is commanded by Jesus to:

Make disciples

Baptize disciples

Teach disciples

In **Acts 1:8** the last words Jesus spoke on the earth “ . . . you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come on you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” CSB

What does living on mission really look like?

It looks like William Borden

In 1904 William Borden graduated from a Chicago high school. As heir to the Borden Dairy estate, he was already a millionaire. For his high school graduation present, his parents gave him a trip around the world. As the

young man traveled through Asia, the Middle East, and Europe, he felt a growing burden for the world's hurting people. Finally, Borden wrote home to say, "I'm going to give my life to prepare for the mission field." At the same time, he wrote two words in the back of his Bible: "No reserves." Indeed, Borden held nothing back. During his college years at Yale University, he became a pillar in the Christian community. One entry in his personal journal that defined the source of his spiritual strength simply said: "Say no to self and yes to Jesus every time." During his first semester at Yale, Borden started a small prayer group that would transform campus life. This little group gave birth to a movement that spread across the campus. By the end of his first year, 150 freshmen were meeting for weekly Bible study and prayer. By the time Bill Borden was a senior, 1,000 of Yale's 1,300 students were meeting in such groups. Borden also strategized with his fellow Christians to make sure every student on campus heard the gospel, and he was often seen ministering to the downtrodden in the streets of New Haven. But his real passion was missions. Once he narrowed his missionary call to the Kansu people in China, Borden never wavered. Upon graduation from Yale, Borden wrote two more words in the back of his Bible: "No retreats." In keeping with that commitment, Borden turned down several high-paying job offers, enrolling in seminary instead. After graduating, he immediately went to Egypt to learn Arabic because of his intent to work with Muslims in China. While in Egypt, he contracted spinal meningitis. Within a month, 25-year-old William Borden was dead. Prior to his death, Borden had written two more words in his Bible. Underneath the words "No reserves" and "No retreats," he had written: "No regrets." Citation: Daily Bread (12-31-1988); The Yale Standard (Fall 1970); Mrs. Howard Taylor, Borden of Yale (Bethany House, 1988)

Through the Power of Jesus the mission of every Christ follower is to advance the Kingdom of God on the earth with our time, our spiritual and physical gifts, our passions, our resources and our God given opportunities.

In the last days remember:

The Prayers of the Righteous vv.13-14

“Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. 14 **If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.**”
CSB

Jesus Taught us to pray

Jesus Calls us to pray

Jesus answers when we pray

No— It is not God’s Will or we ask “amiss.”

James 4:3 “You ask and don’t receive because you ask with wrong motives, so that you may spend it on your pleasures.” CSB

Not Yet—

Yes—

In the last days remember:

The Expectation of the Righteous vv.15-26

“If you love me, you will keep my commands. 16 And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor, to be with you forever. 17 He is the Spirit of truth. The world is unable to receive him because it doesn’t see him or know him. But you do know him, because he remains with you and will be in you. 18 “I will not leave you as orphans; I am coming to you. 19 In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me. Because I live, you will live too. 20 On that day you will know that I am in my Father, you are in me, and I am in you. 21 The one who has my commands and keeps them is the one who loves me. And the one who loves me will be loved by my Father. I also will love him and will reveal myself to him.” 22 Judas (not Iscariot) said to him, “Lord, how is it you’re going to reveal yourself to us and not to the world?” 23 Jesus answered, “If anyone loves me, he will keep my word. My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make our home with him. 24 The one who doesn’t love me will not keep my words. The word that you hear is not mine but is from the Father who sent me. 25 “I have spoken these things to you while I remain with you. 26 But the Counselor, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you all things and remind you of everything I have told you.” CSB

In the last days remember:

The Peace of the Righteous vv.27-29

In the last days remember:

The Opposition of the Righteous v.30

In the last days remember:

The Power of the Righteous v.30