

March



Sugar Land
BIBLE CHURCH
Bringing the Bible to life.

THE CORNERSTONE

March 2021

Sugar Land Bible Church VBS

Vacation Bible School is back on track!
Volunteers make VBS happen, so we need your help! Please see KC Cunningham for details on how you can ride the rails with us this year on Rocky Railway!

SAVE THE DATE!

9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

JUNE 7-11 2021



Missions for the Month

SECOND MILE MINISTRIES www.secondmile.org



Second Mile exists to love our neighbors by meeting physical needs and equipping them to lead a responsible life in Christ.

FAITH & FINANCES FINANCIAL EDUCATION

Second Mile offers this 12-week financial education class designed for people with low incomes. The class meets once a week, with dinner and childcare (for select ages) provided. Participants work on goals such as building up their savings, paying off debt, increasing their income and more. Volunteer allies provide ongoing encouragement and communication with participants.

JOB TRAINING

Second Mile partners with local organizations who offer job training onsite at Second Mile. We also work closely with employers looking to fill positions at their company. A few members of our part-time staff receive on-the-job training as a foundation as they go on to the next step in their career.

NEIGHBORHOOD CHOICE FOOD PANTRY



Signs of the Times for 2021

(Part 13)

Dr. Andy Woods
Pastor

In our first installment, we observed that the Bible places much emphasis on the signs related to Christ's return (Matt. 24:33; Luke 21:28; Heb. 10:25, etc.). Observing these signs helps us ascertain that general time of human history in which we find ourselves. We noted that if the signs of the Tribulation period are rapidly approaching, and the rapture of the Church precedes the Tribulation period, then the rapture must be coming even faster. Thus, we began

to ask ourselves, what are some of these signs that are now setting the stage for the coming Tribulation period? We selected the following *seven* signs as deserving of analysis to be covered in this series:

1. Signs related to Israel
2. Signs related to international politics
3. Signs related to economics
4. Signs related to technology
5. Signs related to spirituality
6. Signs related to society
7. Signs related to understanding Bible prophecy

Therefore, this series is dedicated to exploring the *seven* signs related to the soon return of Jesus Christ. As a result of this teaching, may we all grow in our understanding of the unique time in which we now live. As dealt with in the prior installments in this series, there are several signs meriting discussion concerning the modern state of *Israel* and *international politics* and signs related to *economics* and *technology*. In this installment, we turn our attention toward the predicted spiritual signs of the last days.

5. Signs Related to Spirituality

The Bible has much to say about the spiritual climate that will characterize the world at the time of Christ's Second Advent. While there is much to consider, for our purposes we will limit ourselves to just four categories. These include the advent of *global persecution against believers*, *global religion*, *ridicule of the doctrine of the Second Advent*, and *the last days apostasy of the Church*.

Persecution of Christians

The Bible predicts that the end times scenario would be characterized by ever-increasing persecution against Christians. Jesus predicted in Matthew 24:9, "Then they will deliver you to tribulation, and will kill you, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name." Revelation 17:6 similarly anticipates, "And I saw the

woman drunk with the blood of the saints..." Revelation 18:24 also says, "And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints and of all who have been slain on the earth."

The *Voice of the Martyrs* ministries indicates that there were more Christians martyred in the Twentieth century alone in comparison to all centuries of the Christian era combined. Today, in some Islamic countries, Christians are being crucified. Some of them are being put in cages for the purpose of being drowned or burned to death. Today's hostile environment towards people of faith seems like it is something out of medieval times. Why is all of this happening? It relates to the intense hatred that is currently arising against God's people. If I am understanding my Bible correctly, this type of thing is not going to get any better or easier in the events of the Tribulation period itself. In fact, things will likely get far worse.

Even here in the late great United States of America, florists and bakers and other members of the creative industry are being harassed legally merely because they refuse to offer their services to same-sex weddings. So, what the rest of the world has already been experiencing for generations in terms of persecution against authentic Christians, is now coming to our very own shores. Consider the following recent news items:

Jack Phillips is a baker who declined to bake a wedding cake for a same-sex couple because his Christian belief is that marriage exists only between a man and woman. Now a Colorado judge has ordered him to bake cakes for same-sex marriages, and if Phillips refuses, he could go to jail (Ken Klukowski, "Baker Faces Prison for Refusing to Bake Same-Sex Wedding Cake," online: <http://www.breitbart.com/Big-Government/2013/12/12/Christian-Baker-Willing-to-Go-to-Jail-for-Declining-Gay-Wedding-Cake>, 12 December 2013, accessed 16 May 2014).

Similarly:

In yet another example of gay activist overreach, an Oregon official has not only burdened a Christian couple with a ridiculous fine, he has imposed a gag order on them ... In one of the most Egregious anti-Christian acts committed by a state official in recent memory, Oregon Labor Commissioner Brad Avakian not only upheld the ridiculous \$135,000 fine levied against Aaron and Melissa Klein for declining to bake a cake for a lesbian commitment ceremony, but he ordered the Kleins to 'cease and desist' from making any public comments about their religious convictions relative to this case (<http://www.onenewsnow.com/perspectives/michael-brown/2015/07/06/oregon-declares-war-on-christian-faith>).

Global Religion

Yet another spiritual sign that the Scripture predicts concerning the last days would be the advent of a global religion. Revelation 17:1-2 speaks of a harlot, or a system of religion, enveloping the earth in the last days. These verses say: "Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and spoke with me, saying, 'Come here, I will show you the judgment of the great harlot who sits on many waters, with whom the kings of the earth committed acts of immorality, and those who dwell on the earth were made drunk with the wine of her immorality.'" Of this religious system, Revelation 17:15 says, "And he said to me, 'The waters which you saw where the harlot sits, are peoples and multitudes and nations and tongues.'" This verse is predicting the coming of a one-world religious system and specifically depicting its global influence.

Charles P. Schleicher, a globalist, all the way back in 1953 made the following statement. He said:

There are those who believe that only a universal religion to which men are fervently devoted, one which unites men in devotion to a single god and in a common brotherhood, will serve to overcome divisions among men and the worship of the secular nation-state. [Charles P. Schleicher, *Introduction to International Religions* (New York: Prentice-Hall, 1953); quoted in Pat Robertson, *The New World Order* (Dallas: Word, 1991), 157-58.]

What Schleicher is arguing for here is that his desired world government will never become a workable reality unless it is simultaneously accompanied by a one-world religious system. Yet how can such a one world religion ever become a reality? After all, how could all the contradictory religions of the world be united into a common tapestry?

Perhaps the greatest spiritual leader in the world today is Oprah Winfrey. There is a lot more that she is communicating to her worldwide audience other than just weight loss and cooking tips. She is communicating a worldview that equalizes all the world's religion. Noticing the following quote from Oprah as she interacts with a member of her studio audience:

...one of the mistakes that human beings make is believing that there is only one way... We do not accept that there are diverse ways of being in the world; that there are millions of ways to be a human being. And many ways ... many paths to what you call God. That her path might be something else and when she gets there, she might call it the light. But her loving, And her kindness, and her generosity brings her to the ... same point that it brings you ... It

doesn't matter whether she called it "God" along the way or not ... There couldn't possibly be just one way! ... There couldn't possibly be only one way with millions of people in the world! ... You think ... if you are somewhere on the planet and you never hear the name of Jesus but yet you live with a loving heart, you lived as Jesus would have had you to live, you lived for the same purpose as Jesus came to the planet to teach us all, but you are in some remote part of the earth and you never heard the name of Jesus, you cannot get to Heaven...?
(www.youtube.com/watch?v=Lb2RUpMDk34).

Such a religious philosophy is known as The New Age movement. More than any other single factor it is largely responsible for bringing about the conditions necessary for one world religion predicted in prophetic Scripture. Why? New Age theology teaches that we are all on the same spiritual path. If a person is sincere in their own personal religious or spiritual approach, the veracity of their religion can never be challenged. So, if a person is seeking enlightenment through Hinduism, Mormonism, Islam, Roman Catholicism, Atheism, Humanism, Christianity, etc., then all these roads lead to the same place. The genius of the New Age movement is its ability to combine all divergent religious beliefs into a single coherent system.

Under such a religious fabric, the only unpardonable sin, or anathema, is claiming exclusivity, or that your path is the only way. The greatest virtue of Western civilization was once the pursuit of Truth. Today, this virtue has been largely replaced by a substitute virtue. The greatest virtue in Western civilization is no longer the pursuit of Truth but rather the pursuit of Tolerance.

However, the Bible clearly indicates that the path to God the Father is only through God the Son. In John 14:6, Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, the life, no man comes to the Father but by Me." Acts 4:12 similarly teaches, "...for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved." First Timothy 2:5 also indicates: "For *there is* one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." Jesus in Matthew 7:13-14 explained, "Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it." It is this sort of exclusive teaching that places the Bible-believing Christian at odds with the culture around him that is perpetually calling for a spiritual unity. It is this kind of exclusivity amid an "everyone is right" culture that paves the way for the persecution of the Christian that was spoken of earlier.

We might ask if there is another way to God the Father, other than through Christ, then why did Jesus have to

die such an agonizing death? Such a pluralistic philosophy is akin to saying, “Jesus, thank you for that crown of thorns that was pushed into your skull and for the thirty-nine lashes on your back and for the nails in Your hands and feet and for the spear that was thrust into your side. However, I am fine with my own path to the Father that does not involve the Son. Thus, it becomes an abomination to God to say that there is another way since that would make the ultimate sacrifice of Christ obsolete and irrelevant. In Galatians 2:21, Paul explained, “...if righteousness comes through the Law, then Christ died needlessly.” Yet, such exclusive thinking will largely be eclipsed in the last days by this coming one-world religion, which will adhere to an “all roads lead to God” mentality.

In sum, according to prophetic Scripture, the last days spiritual scenario will involve a trend toward *persecution of believers* and the ever-increasing call for a *global religion*. In our next installment, we will continue to discuss the *spiritual* signs of the last days.

(To Be Continued...)

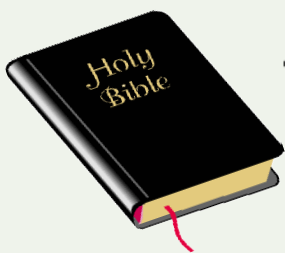
Scripture of the Month

Be joyful
in hope

Be patient
in affliction

Be constant
in prayer

Romans 12:12





Congressman Troy E. Nehls TX-22 Resource List

Home Repairs

<https://www.tdi.texas.gov/pubs/consumer/cb074.html>

What to do if your pipes burst:

- Document your damage by taking pictures
- Contact a plumber
- Contact your homeowners insurance (most homeowner policies cover sudden and accidental water damage)
- Contact your flood insurance (in the event your homeowners doesn't cover)
- Keep all receipts (pending reimbursement plan from state/federal partners)

Report Price Gauging

<https://www.texasattorneygeneral.gov/consumer-protection/file-consumer-complaint>

Report to Texas Attorney General Office at 1-800-621-0508

Help with Insurance Claims

Texas Department of Insurance
800-252-3439
www.tdi.texas.gov

Lone Star Legal Aid
713-652-0277
www.lonestarlegalaid.org

Help with Home Repairs

Samaritan's Purse
828-262-1980
www.samaritanspurse.org

Texans Recovering Together
281-332-3472
www.gulfcoastcenter.org

Just Serve
832-768-3062
www.justserve.org

United Way Brazoria County
979-849-9402
www.uwbc.org

Houston Catholic Charities
281-202-6200

<https://catholiccharities.org/>

United Way Ft. Bend County
281-207-2300

<https://www.unitedwayhouston.org/>

Fort Bend Recovers
www.fortbendrecovers.org

Pearland Area Citizens Corp
281-997-9777
www.pearlandcc.org

Homeland Preparedness Project
281-844-3653

www.homelandpreparedness.org

Mental Health

Texans Recovering Together Counseling Program
936-521-6331

SAMHSA Disaster Distress Helpline
1-800-985-5990 or text TalkWithUs to 66746

Fort Bend County Mental Health Resource Line
832-363-7094

Texana Center 24 Hour Crisis Hotline
(Fort Bend County Residents)
1-800-633-5686

Fort Bend Crisis Intervention Team
281-341-4665 and ask for CIT

Access Health Behavioral Health
281-342-4530

Nami Gulf Coast
281-585-3100
www.namigulfcoast.org

Counseling Connections for Change
281-485-9280
www.counselingconnections.org

Food Pantries

Attack Poverty
832-847-4379
<https://attackpoverty.org/>

Fort Bend Seniors Meals on Wheels
281-633-7049
<https://fortbendseniors.org/>

Katy Christian Ministries Food Pantry
281-391-5261
<https://kcm.org/foodpantry/>

East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry
281-261-1006
<https://www.humanneeds.org/>

Second Mile
281-261-9199
<https://www.secondmile.org/>

Pearland Neighborhood Center
281-485-1987
<https://pnctexas.com/>

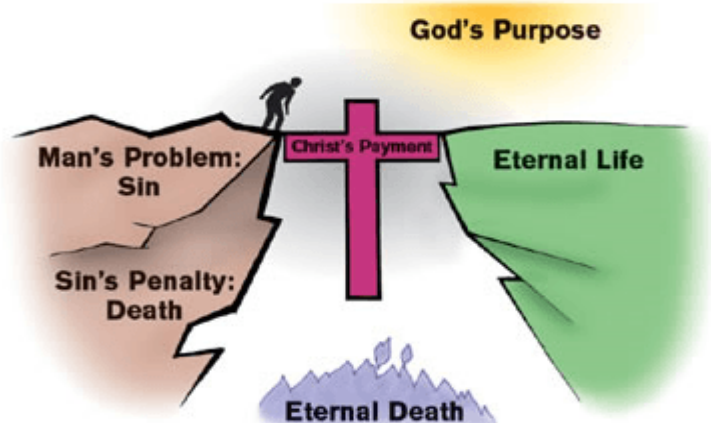
Alvin-Manvel Community Food Pantry
281-824-8871

Brazoria County Dream Center
979-388-0280
<https://www.bcdreamcenter.org/>

Christians Helping Hands
281-485-9776
<http://www.christianhelpinghands.org/>

For *God* so loved the world
that he gave
his one and only *Son*
that whoever
believes in him
shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16



Springtime at SLBC

Sunday School

Adults: The Rapture — Pastor Woods in the Sanctuary
Youth Group— Gabe Morris in the Upstairs Youth Room

Children's Sunday School Downstairs:

Children's Director: KC Cunningham

Sidney Reichardt: Junior Church

Tuesday Bible Studies

Women's Bible lesson taught by Betty Cooke

Morning at 9:00 am

Evening at 7:00 pm

Men's Bible lesson taught by David Sandlin

Evenings at 8:00 pm

Wednesday Evening Services

Meal at 6:00 pm

Adult Prayer at 6:45 pm in Sanctuary

Adult Bible Study (The Book of James) at 7:00 pm in Sanctuary

Youth – Youth Room Upstairs

Children — Classroom 110

Our award-winning pantry serves around 50 families a day. Individuals select the items of their choice, with the quantity based on their family size. Items include frozen meat, produce, dairy, bread, nonperishable items, and hygiene items as available. Families can visit Second Mile once a month for food as needed. Our walk-in choice food pantry is open Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Drive through service is available Tuesday and Thursday from 5 to 7 p.m. On Saturdays, we host fresh produce fairs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., as long as produce is available.

FRESH PRODUCE FOOD FAIRS

We facilitate fresh produce food fairs both at Second Mile and with partners in Fulshear, Stafford and Rosenberg. The Houston Food Bank provides an 18-wheeler with 15,000 pounds of fruits and vegetables. With the help of hard-working volunteers, we're able to sort the produce and serve from 150 to 200 or more families in just a few hours.

MOBILE SECOND MILE

Transportation is one of the biggest challenges our neighbors in need face. Especially in rural areas of the county, our neighbors do not have places of assistance nearby or the gas money to drive far. Through Mobile Second Mile, we pack up bags of groceries and visit partner locations in Needville, Kendleton, and Fulshear. Families make appointments to pick up their groceries, without having to drive all the way to Second Mile. Many are shut-ins who are grateful that someone comes to where they are.

THE OPPORTUNITY SHOP RESALE

In 2015, Second Mile launched its first social enterprise, The Opportunity Shop. This is a resale store providing high quality clothing, shoes, and accessories. When we surveyed our clients about their greatest challenges, the No. 1 was finding a job. We opened the store to provide job opportunities, to provide revenues to serve more people, and to provide great clothing at great prices

ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE

The Fort Bend Literacy Council provides classes at Second Mile in the spring and fall.

CONTACT SECOND MILE

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Missouri City, TX 77489

Phone : (281) 261-9199
Email : volunteer@secondmile.org