

# **SRMBC Family Bible Study**

## **End Times - Practical Heavenly Mindedness**

**April – May 2020**

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Why study the subject of end times? The study of end times is a very personal subject. It addresses fundamental questions that every person asks: What will happen when I die? Will the world end with a fizzle or a bang? Will things get worse or better? Does my work in this world have any lasting significance? What will heaven be like? And who will go there?

These studies from both the Old and New Testaments will address these and other questions. All too often “authoritative” books on last things concentrate on one or two passages in the Bible. In contrast, the book of Revelation, for example, gathers up themes, images and concepts threaded throughout the Old Testament. We need to look to the whole of Scripture for information.

<b>Date</b>	<b>Lesson Title</b>	<b>Scriptures</b>
4/15/2020	The Last Days Are Here!	Acts 2
4/22/2020	He Will Come Back	John 14:1-27
4/29/2020	Signs of the Times	Mark 13
5/6/2020	God’s Timing—and Ours	Joel 2:12-32
5/13/2020	The Future of the Human Person	1 Corinthians 15:12-28, 35-44, 58
5/20/2020	Investing in Heaven	1 Thessalonians 4:13—5:11; 2 Thessalonians 3:6-18
5/27/2020	Going to the Lamb’s Wedding	Revelation 7:9-17; 19:1-10; 21:1-9

These studies may not satisfy the longing of some to have a fixed timetable of end-times events or a comprehensive chart that coordinates all the images and metaphors of Scripture. But the effect of some end-times schemes can be to take away the mystery of God’s final work and attempt to manage it. Actually, everything we need to know to live in Christ is abundantly clear—now and forever.

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## End Times - Practical Heavenly Mindedness

April 15, 2020

*Reverend Thomas A. Keys, Pastor*

### Lesson 1: The Last Days Are Here!      Acts 2

The runner who crosses the finish line first. The winning candidate on election night. The celebrity Oscar winner. All these get applause and congratulations. But who cheers for the fired factory worker, leaving work for the last time, who still believes that God will provide for him and his family? Who throws confetti on the young woman, waking up in a hospital bed paralyzed from a car accident she can't even remember, who cries out to God for help instead of cursing him?

**Group Discussion.** What world events and life experiences have contributed to your view of the future of the human race and the future of planet earth? Are you optimistic or pessimistic? Why?

#### **Read Acts 2:1-41.**

1. Jesus has been crucified and resurrected. He has also ascended into heaven out of sight (1:9). What happens to the waiting disciples to assure them that Jesus will continue to expand his worldwide mission?

- The Disciples received the Promised and Prophesied Power of the Holy Spirit from Heaven.
- The disciples experience the Supernatural Joy of Spirit – Empowered Gospel preaching.
- They experienced the ability to speak in new languages to share the Gospel with people from every nation.
- The experienced the Power to do things that they could not normally accomplish on their own.

*“Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” Luke 24:49 (NKJV)*

2. The Feast of Pentecost (fifty days after the Passover) was one of the three great festivals of Israel. Why do you think Luke, the author, is careful to note the countries of origin represented by the visitors to Jerusalem for this great feast (vv. 9-11)?

- Luke wants us to know that this Gospel is a not just for the Jews (by birth), but for the world.
- He also points out that the Spirit empowered the disciples to speak real languages – that they had never learned.
- In contrast to God using different languages to scatter in the OT (Gen 11: 1 – 9 ), He is in the NT using languages to unify under the Gospel.
- Ultimately, Luke wants us to know that this **a work of God** – not man.

*“And He said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.” Mark 16:15 (NKJV)*

3. With what arguments does Peter counter the charge that he and his friends were intoxicated (v. 13)?
- **We Are Not Drunk** - it is only the 3rd hour (9:00 am) – Jews did not eat nor drink during the day on the sabbaths and solemn feasts.
  - **This Is That** - Peter states that this is what God prophesied thru Joel in the OT that the Spirit would be poured out upon everyone.
  - **This Is The Prophesied Sign** before God's Coming Judgment of sin and sinners.
  - **This the Gracious Opportunity** – The purpose is to get yall's attention - to give you and opportunity to hear the Gospel and cry out to the Lord for salvation in Christ.
- "Don't be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit"*  
*Ephesians 5:18 (NLT)*
4. Often, we associate faith with feeling a certain way (for example: confident, bold, certain, doubt-free). What indicates that these people's behavior was based on something beyond emotional feeling (vv. 4-5, 7-9, 11)?

Scriptures	Remarks
4 And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance. 5 And there were dwelling in Jerusalem Jews, devout men, from every nation under heaven.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• They were filled/influenced by the Spirit (Truth).</li> <li>• The Spirit gave them utterance – in keeping with the Word.</li> <li>• They spoke <u>real languages</u> – <u>to real people</u>.</li> </ul>
7 Then they were all amazed and marveled, saying to one another, "Look, are not all these who speak Galileans? 8 And how is it that we hear, each in our own language in which we were born? 9 Parthians and Medes and Elamites, those dwelling in Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia,	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It amazed the onlookers – with undeniable evidence.</li> <li>• The disciples are simple folks - Galileans doing amazing things!</li> <li>• It was a witness to a great multitude</li> </ul>
11 Cretans and Arabs—we hear them speaking in our own tongues the wonderful works of God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was Purposeful – so that everyone would hear the Glorious Gospel of Jesus Christ!!!</li> </ul>

5. Peter explains the strange events of this feast day in terms of the Old Testament prophecy of Joel (Joel 2:28-31). What evidence does Peter give that he is correct in claiming the "day of the Lord" (v. 20, the last days) has arrived? (Note that he quotes Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 110:1, which are generally regarded as pointing to the Messiah.)

- The outpouring of the Holy Spirit as - Prophesized by Joel in the OT (This is That – Acts 2:16).
  - The Work of Christ and His prophetic fulfillment fits between the OT prophecies and the final Judgement.
  - “The Day of the Lord” is now is a day of opportunity to experience new life, forgiveness and the full endowment of the Spirit.
6. The “day of the LORD” (the last days) in Joel 2:1 is a day of both searing judgment on evildoers and gracious salvation and fulfillment for true servants of God (Joel 2:28-31). Interpreting this passage, Peter does not pronounce irrevocable doom on unbelievers and the executioners of Jesus, but rather stresses the grace of the day of the Lord. Why do you think he does this?
- Peter wants the people to understand that while there is no excuse for their sin and unbelief – the death of Jesus was ultimately the plan of God.
  - The death of Jesus was/is the payment for sin – for everyone could be made right with God.
  - To demonstrate the love of God – who came to save the lost, while there is still time.
  - To validate the meaning/fulfillment of OT with Jesus Christ as the embodiment of Scripture.

*“The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.” 2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)*

What hope does this bring for people today who are currently rejecting Jesus as their Lord and Savior?

- It gives hope to those, no matter what they’ve done that we all can be saved, forgiven and accepted (Even the ones who crucified Jesus were forgiven).
- God’s plan from the very beginning – was/is to save us from sin and bring us into His family through the Person and Work of Jesus Christ.
- God has been gracious and continues to be gracious by withholding the Judgement they/we rightly deserve to give me a chance to receive Christ. “

*“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest” Matthew 11:28 (NKJV)*

7. What must people do to respond to the arrival of the last days (v.38)?

#### **Christians/Believers:**

- Commit to Worship/Prayer
- Study and teach the Word
- Spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ

## Unsaved/Unbelievers

- Repent – Change your mind about Sin (Agree with God).
- Believe on Jesus Christ as your Saviour
- Be baptized in Water In The Name of Jesus Christ – as a testament of your faith.

8. What evidence in the text suggests that the Spirit outpoured on Pentecost is now the permanent endowment of the church for its mission in the world?

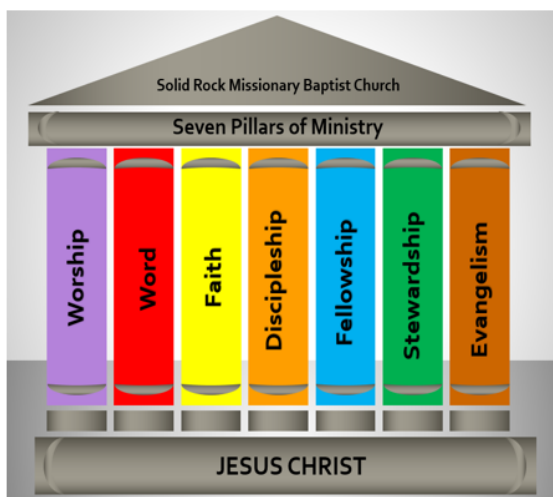
Scriptures	Remarks
33 Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God and having received from the Father <b><u>the promise of the Holy Spirit</u></b> , He <b><u>poured out</u></b> this which you now see and hear.	The Spirit dwelling in every believer is the expressed <b>Promise</b> of God in Christ - OT & NT. The <b>Pouring</b> out has taken place which formed the Church.
38 ...and <b><u>you</u></b> shall receive <b><u>the gift of the Holy Spirit</u></b> .	It is <b>Personal</b> , <b>Practical</b> (for ministry) and the <b>Purposeful</b> an essential part of being a Christian.
39 For the promise is to <b><u>you and to your children</u></b> , and to <b><u>all who are afar off, as many as the Lord our God will call.</u></b> ”	It is <b>Perpetual</b> for every generation, <b>Powerful</b> – to reach the lost <b>Progressive</b> – to reach the whole world.

*Ask the Holy Spirit to continue to fill the church with love, joy and empowered mission.*

## Now Or Later

**Read Acts 2:42-47.** What clues do we have in the passage to explain the growth of the church (v. 47) then and today?

The Early church exhibited characteristics that the today's Church is general, and SRMBC, in particular, should commit to exhibit as well.



- **Worship** - Worshipping God in Spirit and In Truth.
- **Word/Truth** – Proclaim God's Word As Truth And Apply It To People's Lives.
- **Faith** - Be Willing To Step Out In Bold Faith And Take Risks.
- **Discipleship** – Developing Christ Centered Disciples Who Lead By Example.
- **Fellowship** – Continually Practice Agape Love for One another and the Community.
- **Stewardship** – Giving Generously Of God's Resources As A Church And As Individuals.
- **Evangelism** – Commit To Enthusiastically To Sharing The Gospel As Our Mission.

## *Keys for Living*



Jesus has not only given us the Great Commission (Mt. 28:19 – 20), but the power of His Spirit to carry it out.



Since the death and resurrection of Jesus, we have been in the “Last Days”. This means that now is the time for the Church to get busy with the mission of evangelizing the lost.



**Every believer** has the responsibility to know the Gospel and continually grow in the faith through the knowledge and understanding of God’s Word.