

Theory #8

The Time is Coming When No Man Can Work

There is a passage in John 9:4,5 where Jesus says this: “⁴We must work the works of Him who sent Me as long as it is day; night is coming, when no man can work. ⁵While I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”

Some traditionalists have interpreted verse 4 to mean that we can only work while we are physically alive (duh). After we die (i.e., the night), we can no longer win souls or do the work of God on the earth. But in our opinion this is too simplistic and is not what Jesus was saying. He addressed His comment to the group (His disciples) as a whole and included Himself. “We must work the works of Him who sent Me, as long as it is day...,” as if the end of “day” would happen simultaneously to all of the workers. “For the night is coming when *no man* can work;” which sounds like night would happen to all of the workers simultaneously as well. Obviously they were not going to die all together.

It appears that He was making the point that while He was with them, in the world, He was the Light that men would see and respond to (or not). But once He left this world, that job would belong to His disciples and they would continue to work the works (with and through Him) until it was “night.”

After the Resurrection He sent His Spirit to indwell believers, and told them He Himself would be with them, and indeed would be “in them,” implying that He *is* the Spirit.¹ Thus indicating that He, as God, has not actually left the world, but has assumed a spiritual presence “in” His disciples² rather than a physical presence “with” them. He gives them the **Great Commission** at the end of the gospel of Matthew and tells them to continue “working” *after* His departure: “Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them into the name (Jesus) of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit,³

¹ 2 Corinthians 3:17,18 says: “Now the Lord is the Spirit, and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. But we all, with unveiled face beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as from the Lord, the Spirit.”

² Once Jesus died as the sacrificial Lamb for all sin, the Spirit of God could indwell men made perfect through faith and repentance. Prior to His death, sin could only be temporarily covered over from sacrifice to sacrifice, but once Jesus died, the sin issue was forever settled and those who embraced His atoning work by faith could receive His perfect righteousness, allowing God to cohabit with man.

³ See Acts 2:37-38.

teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”⁴

The **Great Commission** is the term Christians use to connote the last command Jesus gave his disciples before His ascension back into heaven. He told them to go into all the world and make disciples of all the nations (peoples), baptizing them in the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit and teaching them to do all that He commanded them (repent and obey). In Acts 2:38 we see this carried out by the apostle Peter at Pentecost, when the Church was born. Peter preached his first sermon and 3,000 men were saved. “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent, and let each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ (because there is only one God who incarnated Himself in human flesh. See Isaiah 9:6 for biblical support.) for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. This is the job of every Christian, but especially of those gifted and called to be evangelists and missionaries. The devil is always working overtime to find a way to put a stop to the Great Commission.

So if they are to continue working as long as it is “day,” and that “day” continued after Jesus departed (given the subsequent task of the Great Commission), what does He mean, “the time is coming when no man can work”?

Some have suggested that this “night” is a reference to the earth post-Rapture, a time of tribulation and wrath that follows the supernatural removal of the Church—and, if true, that would indeed seem to constitute a coming “night,” at least for those left behind. But presumably, after the Rapture, there would be no true (Spirit-indwelt) believers left on the earth to do the “work of God” anyway. (Once God calls and seals the 144,000 Jewish evangelists, however, that work would resume in a slightly altered form; but the indwelling Spirit would no longer be available.)

Though this does appear, on one level, to be a plausible explanation, it seems that the phrase “when no man can work” more precisely indicates that there are actually men who *could* work, who are *there* to work, but they are restrained from working by something.

If we are not splitting hairs too thinly here, let us just say, we think there is a more apt interpretation for this verse which speaks of the “time when no man can work.”

⁴ Matthew 28:18-20

Although we cannot predict the time nor date of this coming “night”, we suspect it will come in the form of a world-wide ban on proselytizing, when the light (the good news of the gospel) will be temporarily banned.⁵ While this may not occur for some time, it is a likely prospect and getting more likely by the minute.

Given the terrible nature of Islamic (often forced) conversions, and their commitment to forcibly bringing back apostate Muslims (those who have become Christians or left the faith) by threats of execution, ostracism and so forth, not to mention their determination to conquer the world and impose Islamic law upon us all, we can imagine that a World Human Rights Court or United Nations-type of body, perhaps not yet constituted in its final form, will view such an edict as a way to curb Islamic fundamentalism. By enacting tough sanctions for those who violate this anti-proselytizing law, radical Islam could be legitimately criminalized. As Europe reels under the assault of Islamic violence, this becomes more likely.

But in view of the politically-correct, non-discrimination policy which has descended upon us all, this law will have to be applied across the board to all religions “in order to be fair,” regardless of the veracity of a religion’s claims. Truth will have to bow to tolerance and equality. Thus all active and committed fundamentalists of any stripe will be lumped together as being outside the pale of civil society, and in fact will be considered religious terrorists.⁶ Sharing one’s faith without an invitation or publicly espousing the idea that one’s faith is the only true faith, or the only means to salvation, will be criminalized as “hate speech” and worse. The concept that there are many equally valid paths to the one universal God will be the only acceptable philosophy.

We are already seeing this marginalization of fundamental Christians in the media and elsewhere. A well-known national talk show host recently stated on his morning program that those who espouse a belief in a literal Adam and Eve are as crazy as those who want to forbid all mention of God in public

⁵ Though it is likely that there will be some caveat, such as, you can only share your faith if someone approaches you voluntarily and asks you what you believe or why you believe it.

⁶ I have already heard this viewpoint espoused vehemently on national television (ABC) this year (2007) by an atheist during a debate, who proclaimed that Christians’ efforts to convince people to follow Christ using fear of hell as a motivator are guilty of terrorism, no less than Islamists who blow themselves up in crowded shopping malls.

schools. Balance, he said, is the right way to go. Middle of the road. (In other words, it's okay to mention a higher power. Just don't give it a name.) Germany long ago banned home-schooling (under Hitler's direction), a practice that is primarily the purview of Christian parents. And this in a "democratic" nation. A ban that, incidentally, was recently upheld by the European Human Rights Court. Christian parents there are being fined, having their children taken from them, their houses liened, and literally fleeing the country to protect their offspring from state indoctrination. What next? Where next? California? Yes, perhaps. Recent court developments there portend ill for the future of home-schooling unless the legislature acts decisively to protect parents' rights to educate their children according to their own consciences.⁷ America is lurching toward Marxism. Even more so with the coming election (2008) with two basically Marxist candidates⁸ and one liberal Republican.

And in fact, the last few years have seen pronouncements by many in the ecumenical movement (the movement dedicated to the reunification of Catholicism and Protestantism) and in Judaism decrying attempts by evangelical Christians to convert Jews to Christianity as "insulting" at best and criminal at worst. Recently I heard a popular radio speaker reporting on an upcoming meeting between the Vatican and the World Council of Churches. The purpose: to discuss appropriate and acceptable forms of proselytizing. Clearly Satan's tack will be to define as "offenses" all uninvited attempts to convert Jews (or Buddhists, Hindus or adherents of any other faith) to Christianity and he may use the apostate church to do it, as well as end-time world-governing bodies. This is the beginning of officially criminalizing true Christianity, which is most clearly characterized by Jesus' final command to "go into all the world and make disciples of all nations." This could be preliminary to edicts stating that all religions are equally valid and should be respected as such, and that there is not "one way" to heaven or other such pronouncements, so that no one should be made to suffer the indignity of being told their

⁷ California's Supreme Court also just recently (May 2008) struck down legislation that prohibited same-sex marriage in California. Expect a battle in the state over this issue. In the meantime, gays will flock to California to get married legally, then try to impose these legal marriages on other states, forcing them to recognize them as legitimate. Subsequent lawsuits will eventually bring many states to this place, or ultimately bring the issue before the Supreme Court of the land. If a liberal president appoints one or two liberal activist judges in the meantime, we will see a national ruling legalizing gay marriage. If this happens, America will reap the same judgments as have other civilizations that officially sanctioned this perversion of marriage. God won't stand still when His main illustration for salvation is stolen by the devil with the help of human "leaders." Civil governments were constituted to keep order in society for the benefit of children. Once sexual liberty becomes a higher priority than the protection of children, a society quickly disintegrates.

⁸ Hillary Clinton and Barack Obama.

religion is false, inadequate, or flawed, or be pressured in any way to change religions, especially by use of “force” in the form of the threat of hell or eternal punishment.

Ultimately, the “many ways to God” philosophy, currently being vigorously promoted to millions of viewers by Oprah Winfrey and her new guru, Eckhart Tolle, will pave the way to a world-faith that most likely will incorporate aspects of Catholic and Protestant Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism and possibly Judaism. In fact, talk has surfaced recently about instituting a United Nations of Faiths, an official international body charged with finding mutual ground between the faiths leading to world peace. Clearly this is one more step toward a final solution to the world’s admittedly sticky wicket in the area of religion.

So, in a non-violent effort to save itself from radical Islamic terrorism, and in the naïve belief⁹ that this anti-proselytizing law will work to curb such terrorism, we believe the world will have to outlaw that which motivates it. Which, at its root, is a belief that Islam, as the only true faith, must conquer the world, and by the sword if necessary, if Allah and his word (the Koran) are credible. Otherwise Allah is shown to be a fraud and the Koran fallible, and that is intolerable.¹⁰

But there is another possible scenario for the outworking of this prophecy.

⁹ These people are willing to *die* and *kill* for their faith, after all.

¹⁰ One other possible solution to the radical Islamic problem would be: “If you can’t lick ‘em, join ‘em.” Europe particularly has been moving away from traditional Christianity for decades, and a turn toward Islam is brewing. Again, it may reflect the Stockholm syndrome, in which individuals ally themselves with the perceived threat in order to move themselves into a protected position against the onslaught of terror. Such a trend would bode ill for conservative, bible-believing Christians in Europe and abroad, who would eventually find their evangelistic efforts criminalized, leading to a near cessation of witnessing or evangelistic publishing for fear of lawsuits, recrimination and possibly criminal penalties or sanctions. The state of Colorado recently passed SB200 in an effort to penalize anti-LGBT (lesbian, gay, bi-sexual and transgender) speech or publishing (including statements critical of gender-identity protection legislation), which, unless declared unconstitutional, could easily draw down the curtain on biblical preaching, writing, publishing and teaching.

However, the current Pope has been calling Europe to return to its Christian roots and with the growing numbers of Muslims living in traditionally western countries, there is no doubt going to be a backlash. Moderate Muslim leaders in the Middle East are making a radical bid of their own, to try to head off at the pass any serious return to Christianity by stepping in with a conciliatory gesture to minimize the differences between the faith of Islam and that of Christianity. A document called “A Common Word Between Us and You” was recently drafted (Sept. 2007) and signed by 138 leading Muslim clerics and scholars and sent to the Pope, Archbishop of Canterbury, World Council of Churches and leaders of Christian denominations, in an effort to say, in effect, we share a common faith based on love. Can’t we work out our differences and just get along? A World Catholic-Muslim Forum will begin meeting semi-annually in November 2008 to remove the stumbling blocks and enhance dialogue. This may be the ultimate solution to the problem of radical Islam, but it will take some significant concessions or some world-shaking event to bring the radicals to the table. (True bible believing Christians will never submit to this.) Visit www.acommonword.com for more on this development.

If the Rapture should happen, some explanation of this event (other than the truth) would have to be forthcoming. This is hinted at in 2 Thess. 2:11, that a lie will be spoken over the earth and those who did not love the truth when they had the chance will believe it. Perhaps that lie will be that we were taken by aliens (“beam me up, Scotty”) for reeducation because we were hanging on to an outdated myth that is keeping the world from reaching the next rung in its evolutionary development. That lie will be helped along, more than likely, by actual demonic visitations (as in the days of Noah) or sightings of UFOs carrying out the “abductions.” Removing the Christians (though it is God who is doing it) frees the world to pursue “love and brotherhood and unity” like never before. It will be Babel revisited.

And one can imagine that, if Christians are “taken for reeducation” and Muslims are not, the conclusion might be drawn that Muslims have the truth, or at least are not as deluded as Christians. They will probably assert this fact as evidence of their credibility and many will flock to the faith of Mohammed, and likely Judaism as well. Neither has ever accepted the doctrine of the Trinity, or the divinity of Christ.

The next likely development would be a ban on teaching traditional Christian theology, particularly the deity of Christ, to one’s children or espousing it publicly in any form. It might also lead to a move to destroy all Christian publications, books, and Bibles, scrub the internet of references to the deity of Christ and prohibit the preaching of Christ’s deity even in churches, in order to stomp out this wayward faith once and for all. It may even be banned in private email conversations, or at least monitored using Patriot Act type legislation.

Time will tell, but this development may be nearer than we think. Rumbblings of “net neutrality” are gaining momentum. In any case, Islam is on the rise and the world will soon discover that nothing will deter the violent conquest these individuals promote, except possibly one thing.

Enter Theory #9.