

A Monthly Message from Pastor Mike and Mandy

Dear Parish Family,

If you are reading this letter, the world has not ended. According to Harold Camping of Family Radio, Oakland, California, it was supposed to have ended on Saturday, May 21. Camping's logic is this. He calculates that the flood occurred in 4990 B.C. Hebrews 11: 7, Camping asserts, tells us that God commanded Noah to warn the world that the flood would occur in seven days. From there Camping goes to 2 Peter 3: 8. where the apostle reminds the reader that a thousand years is like one day to the Lord. Camping then returns to Genesis 7: 10-11, where it says that the flood came as predicted in seven days in the second month on the seventeenth day of the month. These seven days also represent seven thousand years as we find in 2 Peter. God was informing Noah, not only of the destruction of the world by flood, but also that in seven thousand years Judgment Day would come. If you do the math, you will find that 2011 is the year of destruction. One year must be subtracted, because there is not such thing as year 0, when the calendar goes from B.C. to A.D.

Camping also asserts that Saturday, May 21, is the same as the 17th day of the second month in the biblical calendar when the destruction of the flood began. On the first day of judgment, God will rapture 200, 000, 00 people or 3% of the population, a figure that Camping calculates from biblical evidence (what evidence? We do not know).

The purpose of this complex calculation is so that God's mercy can be shown to people who repent. But, we are called to repent in light of the end without the need for calculation. At any time the Lord may return.

The response to Camping is simple. Jesus says in Mark, “But concerning that day and that hour, no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, only the Father.” (Mark 13: 32 ESV) Luther says that the Scriptures are clear. This passage is clear. Camping's prediction can not be true, because the Scriptures indicate that it can not be so.

What should be our response? Jesus tells us to be prepared. We should lead a life of daily repentance. Repentance leads to the forgiveness of sins. Faith receives the forgiveness of sins. Forgiven sinners whose faith has been strengthened through the power of the Holy Spirit do good works toward their neighbors. This is the proper preparation taught by Christ. Calculating the end is a fruitless activity that has no Scriptural warrant and adds nothing to the Lord's call to be prepared for His return in glory.

In Christ,

Pastor Michael Tavella

Pastor Amanda Grimmer