

SESSION 5: THE NEGLECTED CORNERSTONE

As Jesus was sitting on the Mount of Olives, the disciples came to him privately. “Tell us,” they said, “when will this happen, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the end of the age?” Jesus answered: “Watch out that no one deceives you. For many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah,’ and will deceive many. You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. Such things must happen, but the end is still to come. Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. All these are the beginning of birth pains.”

“Then you will be handed over to be persecuted and put to death, and you will be hated by all nations because of me. At that time many will turn away from the faith and will betray and hate each other, and many false prophets will appear and deceive many people. Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved. **And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come**” (Matthew 24:3-14)

I. OBEDIENCE & THE GOSPEL

- A. There is wisdom in being watchful and observant of the signs that lead up to the End Times, but we must not lose sight of the Gospel
- B. Jesus includes an important piece in His definition of the Gospel: obedience (Matthew 28:18-20)
- C. To make disciples, we must teach obedience (Matthew 28:20)
- D. There is no Gospel message without repentance, without sacrifice
 - 1. As Paul says, “I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me” (Galatians 2:20)
- E. There is a cost associated with following Jesus (Matthew 10:38-39)
- F. Obedience is sacrifice and Jesus calls us to follow His example
 - 1. “Not my will, but yours be done” (Luke 22:42)
- G. Church membership doesn’t imply salvation
- H. The bottom line of the Gospel is obedience