



Why Are Things the Way they Are?—Part 2
From sermon 6.28.20

Read *John 16:33*

Review from Sunday's sermon: Pre-end-time events continue to unfold around us. The Bible made it clear these days were coming. It also teaches why they come: the inevitable consequences of a world that has rejected God and His Holy Word. We know (from Genesis 3) that man is evil to his core. From Revelation, we know God has appointed a day to judge all evil and renew the world.

1. Left to his own sinful nature, mankind would devolve into a murderous chaos (Genesis 6). In His Grace, God has instituted four restraints of evil on earth. What are they?

- Conscience
- The Family
- Human Government
- The Church

2. We've already studied the dismissal and corruption of the first three restraints. What has happened in the Church—the final of the institutions? Although it's had some revivals, victories, and reformations, it continues today to be influenced and silenced by the world.

2a. What two main practices have led to the Church's insignificance in the culture?

- The Abandoning of the Word of God—*2 Timothy 4:3*
- The Tolerance and Celebration of Sin—*1 Corinthians 5:1-2*

3. Instead of preaching the Word and confronting sin, what are some of the common goals of the diminishing Church? Religious ritual = ceremony, repetitive memorized responses. Experience = prophecies, indwellings/tongues, healings, emotion. Practicality = feel good, positive, better worldly lives, overcoming, psychology, safe/anonymous

4. What have you struggled with most during these challenging days? Various answers

4a. How have you handled your struggles (both positive/biblical ways and worldly/human ways)?

4b. What changes could you make, this week, to be a better witness and light?

5. In the "Response" section of Sunday's sermon, what were some of our admonitions in the Church? Various Answers: Demand Biblical Preaching, remember we are not home yet, get ready for more, have faith, exercise God-given wisdom, show an abundance of love and grace to others.

See 2 Corinthians 5:20 & 2 Timothy 4:2

5a. What were some for outside the Church? Stop trusting in man/human solutions. Practice civil obedience until the law/instructions violate the clear Word of God. Remember you're an ambassador representing Christ, keep things in perspective.

6. The model and example of Daniel and his friends: _____

