

## Message: Living In a World Going to **Hell**: State of the Christian Church in America Today

### — **JC** Provided the Ultimate Comfort to **His** Disciples

**John 14:27** “**Peace I leave with you, My peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.**”

— Out true peace is based on a simple **biblical** mathematics formula.

— **One Cross + Three Nails = Forgiven**

— **Two Requirements = Complete Faith, Trust, and Obedience**

— **JC** foreshadowed that conflict would come to **His** disciples, **and** be a part of every Christian life.

**2 Timothy 3:12-13** “<sup>12</sup>Yea, **and all that will live godly in **CJ** shall suffer persecution.** <sup>13</sup>**But evil men [women/children] and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived.**” (Matthew 24)

**\*Worldwide Brokenness = Ideological Struggle** (\$), Power, Property, control of the masses; irreparable differences between people **and** groups – **All manmade solutions have ended in failure** – **\*Synonyms = discord, disharmony, dissension, dissent, disunion, dissidence, division, strife, schism, friction, infighting = World** out of control

— **What’s the only solution to the world’s brokenness?** [**Gospel** of **JC**]

— **Apostle John (The Revelator)** provided **scriptural** guidance for the Christian in **Revelation 2/3**, when he addressed the **Seven Churches of Revelation and/or 7** different types of individuals **and/or** churches.

— The instructions in righteousness were for **all** that would by faith, listen/trust/obey the **HG**, **repent** if **necessary**, **and** do the **will** of **God**.

1) **Ephesus** (Revelation 2:1-7): church had **forsaken** its first love (2:4);  
 2) **Smyrna** (Revelation 2:8-11): **church would suffer persecution** (2:10);  
 3) **Pergamum** (Revelation 2:12-17): church **needed to repent** (2:16);  
 4) **Thyatira** (Revelation 2:18-29): church had a **false** prophetess/Jezebel (2:20);  
 5) **Sardis** (Revelation 3:1-6): church had **fallen** asleep (3:2);  
 6) **\*Philadelphia** (Revelation 3:7-13): **church had endured patiently** (3:10);  
 7) **Laodicea** (Revelation 3:14-22): church w/**lukewarm** faith (3:16).

**\*Note:** Only **two** out of seven churches were in the **will** of **God**.

— **How is this scripture important today?**

— **Living in a World Going to Hell: “What is the State of the Christian Church in America Today?”**

— The overall church attendance in the U.S. is around 20+- percent on an average Sunday morning worship service.

— Spelled out in layman’s terms the numbers represent a historic low, **and** point to the imminent danger of the church **losing** its influence on American culture at large. [**How many churches have closed in your community?**]

— The purpose of sharing this information is not to be critical of those w/in the will of **God**, but to provide **“Warning and Encouragement.”**

— **God** is “faithful” to those who are called by **His** Name that are engaged in spiritual warfare fighting against the **wickedness** of this world. (**Ephesians 6:10-20**)

— The Conflict = **Spiritual Wickedness** [in high places – **Ephesians 6:10-20**]

— **Scriptural Warnings of the Times to Come** (Matthew 10:16-21; Matthew 24; 2 Timothy 3:12-13; 2 Timothy 4:3-4; 2 Thessalonians 2:3-12; 1 John 4:1-6)

- Based on **biblical** facts: “The Church is in a state of **crisis** today.”
- In a **world** going to **hell** many church are part of the problem, instead of being part of the solution. **Amen.**
- In the Church we have **followers/fans** (Kyle Idleman) of **JC**, and understanding the difference between **two** is extremely important, because only the follower is a **true believer.**
- Followers = Born-Again/**HG** filled Christians, they love one another, their enemies, **and** they do as **Christ** instructed them to do according to **scripture** from **Genesis–Revelation.** [...**If ye love Me, ye will keep My Commandments... John 14:15**]
- Fans want to see the mountain top experiences, **but** when the valleys come in/outside the Church, they are **not** faithful to it. (**Hebrews 11:6**)
- **What most of us fail to remember is that the God of the mountain top is also the God of the valley? Amen.**

**Hebrews 13:5** “*Let your conversation be without **covetousness**; and be content with such things as ye have: for **He** hath said, **I** will never leave thee, **nor** forsake thee.*”

— There are many different follower/fan formulas that make up a church congregation. [**What is the makeup of your church?**]

**Luke 9:23** “... **If any man will come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.**”

— **Best Example = Abraham by Faith, Trusted and Obeyed God** becoming the father of **many** nations – **God’s** love for **Abraham** also led to the Rescue of **Lott and His Family, Minus One Wife** (Genesis 19:24-26)

— **God** will **judge all nations/individuals** for **their sin.**

**Psalms 9:17** “The **wicked** shall be turned into **hell**, **and** all the **nations** that forget **God**.”

— Rhetorical Question: According to **scripture**, “is it possible to be just a **fan**, and if so, would **God’s** grace be sufficient in that context?”

— **What about Lott’s wife, “a follower or fan?”**

— There are **many** examples in the **Bible** where **God** sent messengers, whether they were apostles, prophets, teachers, evangelists, **and/or** pastors to **warn** people of pending **destruction**, unless they **repented**.

— The first instinct was for fans to shoot the messenger. **Amen!**

**2 Chronicles 36:15-16** “<sup>15</sup> **And** the **LORD God** of their fathers sent to them by **His** messengers, rising up betimes, **and** sending; **because He** had compassion on **His** people, **and** on **his** dwelling place: <sup>16</sup> **But they mocked** the messengers of **God**, **and despised His** words, **and misused His** prophets, until the **wrath** of the **LORD** arose against **His** people, till *there was no* remedy.”

— For the Church to survive a **Critical Lifesaving Analysis (CLSA)** must be conducted w/the guidance of **God** the **Father/Son/HG**.

— Remember, “...the gates of **hell shall not** prevail against the true and faithful Church of **JC**.” (**Matthew 16:18**)

— **Think about the story of Noah for a moment?**

**2 Peter 2:5** “**And** spared **not** the old world, **but** saved Noah the eighth *person*, a preacher of righteousness, bringing in the flood upon the **world** of the **ungodly**...”

— Today the **warning** signs are evident **all** over the world that point to the imminent return of **JC** for **His** “faithful Church.”

— In the moment, in the twinkling of an eye, we going home, we're going home when that Eastern Sky split wide open, **and** then we see **CJ** coming down on that heavenly cloud.

— In conclusion, the CLSA is a performance based analysis used to avoid the **pit-falls** of walking completely out of the **will** of **God**.

— We are **not** to conduct a CLSA in an attempt to pass judgment upon anyone, **but** to be certain that the Church is **w/in** the holy **will** of **God**.

**1 Corinthians 2:12-16** “<sup>12</sup> Now we have received, **not** the **spirit** of the **world**, **but** the **Spirit** which is of **God**; that we might know the things that are freely given to us of **God**. <sup>13</sup> Which things also we speak, **not** in the words which man's wisdom teacheth, **but** which the **Holy Ghost** teacheth; comparing spiritual things with spiritual. <sup>14</sup> **But** the natural man receiveth **not** the things of the **Spirit** of **God**: for they are **foolishness** unto him: **neither** can he know *them*, **because they are spiritually discerned**. <sup>15</sup> **But He** that is **Spiritual** judgeth **all** things, yet **He Himself** is judged of **no** man. <sup>16</sup> For who hath known the mind of the **Lord**, that **He** may instruct him? **But** we have the mind of **Christ**.”

— **Living in a World Going to Hell: What Is the State of the Christian Church in America Today?**

— **Let us be very clear, and to the point, “When Christ Returns, It Will Only Be for a Faithful Church.”**

— When a fire breaks out onboard a ship at sea; everyone becomes a firefighter in order to stay afloat.

**Revelation 21:7** “He [the church] that overcometh **shall** inherit **all** things; **and I** will be his **God**, **and** he **shall** be **My** son.”

To **God** Be **All** the Glory