

Week of February 26-March 3

Today's devotional-writer is Mark Kiburz. Mark serves on our Board of Elders and is currently pursuing his ministerial credentials with the Assemblies of God.

WATCH AND LISTEN

Scripture Reading: Read Mark Chapter 13

In Pastor Ray's devotional on Matthew 24, he mentioned a Bible teacher by the name of Harold Camping who predicted the end of the world on May 21, 2011 and the return of Christ. Mark 13 tells us "*But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*" Unfortunately, Mr. Camping deceived multitudes of people and made a mockery of Jesus return.

Mark 13 shows us that Jesus warned against such deceptions "*Watch out that no one deceives you. Many will come in my name, claiming, 'I am he,' and will deceive many*". We can believe things that we want to come true. Many generations have been waiting for Jesus to return and meet believers in the air (1 Thessalonians 4:17). Before Jesus returns things will happen: preaching the gospel to all nations, persecution of believers through the world, false signs and wonders just to list a few things.

What does this mean? We are nearing the end days as every other generation has before us. We must be diligently "watching" for Jesus' return (Mark 13:37). In our time of watching for His return, we are charged with knowing the word of God so we can refute those coming to deceive His people. We need to be a people of prayer so we can determine what is from God and what is not from God. God has spoken to His people since Adam and Eve. It is time we begin to listen intently for Him as we draw closer to the end days.

Action Step: Do not allow yourself to be deceived. Check everything against the Word of God.

Prayer Focus: Pray for God to give you wisdom and discernment to avoid deception.

Take-a-way: We may know not the when but we certainly know the what: Jesus is coming again.