

Audio Transcript of Sermon
September 19, 2026
Signs of the End Time – The Follow Up Message

Hello. Thank you for joining us today. My name is Tom Laign with Sabbath Bible Study. We live in a world that for many has increasing uncertainties. When others see uncertainty and doubt, because they see political unrest, economic problems, extreme weather, and natural disasters, we look to the certainty of the Kingdom of God to come and the incredible hope that brings us. When others worry about betrayal by those closest to them, we look to Jesus Christ Who is the author and finisher of our faith, Who is loyal to God our Father, and Who will be loyal to us in times of uncertainty. When others see wars and rumors of war, nations fighting each other, and then hear of pandemics, famine, and natural disasters and do not know what to make of it, we see the certainty of prophecy.

When we are persecuted because we hold fast to what is in the Bible, we can look to people from the Bible who were also persecuted. We can think of the three friends of Daniel who refused to worship the golden image set up by Nebuchadnezzar who were then tossed into a furnace that was so hot it killed the guards that brought them to the furnace, and God protected Daniel's three friends. We can consider the two witnesses of Revelation who will be hated more than any other people in the history of mankind, and God protects throughout the final witness to mankind. In the end, God allows them to be killed and then three and a half days later with their dead bodies still left where they were killed, God resurrects them and they ascend on a cloud, as a final, final witness to mankind, causing many to suddenly fear God. Like Daniel's three friends and the two witnesses, we will also endure to the end.

With the uncertainty caused by end time events that many who are not of the household of faith will have, there will be considerable background noise, and fear and confusion, and that fear and confusion by those who are not yet called will make it easier for false prophets to gain a foothold with the people by telling the people what they want to hear to assuage their fears and confusion, even if that involves whitewashing sin and iniquity. Instead of appeasing society, that approach just causes society to become harsher and colder, and more distant. It is when society rejects God, that we must remain loyal to God. When society trades

truth for the lie, we must firmly embrace truth staying true to the word of God and doing what God expects of us.

When others accept the message of false prophets and their whitewashing of sin and iniquity, we reject that type of abomination. When others turn from God and are enamored by religious abominations influenced by other religions, we are not, and when an end time abomination having religious influence is in Jerusalem standing in the Holy place, instead of being enamored we remain loyal to truth, and if we find ourselves in Jerusalem at this future time, we immediately leave.

We live at a time that is not much different than the days of Noah were, a time when the thoughts of people were focused continually on what is evil. It seems like as days turn into weeks, weeks into months, and months into years that we see society more and more embracing what is evil and rejecting what is good, including those who seek to do what is good. For us, there can be no turning away from God as we continue to seek first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness.

Jesus told us all of these things in the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew and then added to his teaching by explaining in Matthew twenty-five qualities the faithful will have during this end time. What is recorded for us in these two chapters in Matthew are the last major teachings by Jesus on prophecy before His death and resurrection. For many weeks, we have looked at the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, and today we will examine what is in the next chapter, the follow-up message to the signs of the end time.

That follow up message begins with Jesus showing that all of the faithful will slumber and sleep, much like the disciples fell asleep when Jesus was praying his final night at Gethsemane. In a parable with ten virgins where half were wise and half were foolish; all fell asleep and slumbered. That should remind us that as easy as it is to fall asleep at night, it can be just as easy to lose focus on seeking first the Kingdom of God and God's righteousness, because Jesus taught everyone slumbered and slept. The foolish slumbered and slept, and the wise also slumbered and slept. The difference between the foolish and wise was the oil in their lamps. The foolish had no oil with them and the wise did. In the parable when the groom returned, the virgins went out to meet him and trimmed their lamps. It was then the foolish realized they didn't have any oil. They begged the

wise to share their oil, but the wise couldn't share because there wouldn't be enough for everyone to make their way to meet the groom. The wise departed and met the groom while the foolish had to first buy oil, and that prevented them from being part of the marriage celebration. Matthew twenty-five verses one.

Matthew 25:1-13

- 1. Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom.**
- 2. And five of them were wise, and five were foolish.**
- 3. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them:**
- 4. But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps.**
- 5. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept.**
- 6. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him.**
- 7. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps.**
- 8. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out.**
- 9. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves.**
- 10. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut.**
- 11. Afterward came also the other virgins, saying, Lord, Lord, open to us.**
- 12. But he answered and said, Verily I say unto you, I know you not.**
- 13. Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.**

Jesus taught to always be spiritually ready because we will not know when He returns. When we look at the passage, we can see hints that we the faithful still have much spiritual growth before us. When the foolish asked the wise to share their oil, and with oil being a type of the Holy Spirit, we obviously cannot give part of the Holy Spirit given to us to another person. God and Jesus Christ can bestow the Holy Spirit. When we consider that the fear of the wise was that if they shared there would not be enough oil for everyone to meet the groom should hint that as spiritually minded as we might think we are, we still have tremendous room for spiritual growth. The other item from the teaching of Jesus is that both wise and foolish slept while the groom was away. Some people when they set an alarm like to play with the snooze button. They might set an alarm for six in the morning,

but they know they will hit the snooze button for another thirty minutes. Personally, I prefer not to hear the alarm in the morning, so I have learned to wake up prior to the alarm, and sometimes my dreams help me. Last week very early in the morning on a day when I mop floors in my house, I was dreaming of mopping floors, and somehow that caused me to wake up a few minutes before my alarm would have sounded. As Christians, there is no spiritual snooze button for us to set. There is no vacation from faith we can take. We must be spiritually ready at all times.

Part of what Jesus taught the disciples in Matthew came from the Book of Daniel. The final chapter of that book starts by showing the archangel Michael during the great tribulation and shortly thereafter with some people being resurrected to everlasting life and others to shame and contempt. From Daniel we can see like the wise virgins who had their oil with them, it is the wise who will shine as bright as the sun. Daniel twelve verse one.

Daniel 12:1-4

- 1. And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book.**
- 2. And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt.**
- 3. And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.**
- 4. But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased.**

Paul would tell the Ephesians to walk as the wise and not as fools. He warned them against allowing others to use false words to deceive them, because when lies are embraced over truth it brings the wrath of God on those who disobey. It would be foolish of us to embrace the lie because if we do, we will also suffer the same fate. Instead of embracing lies, we must embrace truth and be led by the Holy Spirit. When others do things which are sinful, we cannot also do those sinful things. We don't have to separate ourselves from society, we simply cannot do sinful things that society does, and instead we need to be able to explain why what society does is wrong, with our focus on what is being done and not the

person. Being awake and alert means we are aware of what is happening around us and we could explain it to others. Similarly, we must know the sinful things done by society and be able to explain why those things are Biblically wrong things to do. Ephesians five verse six.

Ephesians 5:6-16

6. Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

7. Be not ye therefore partakers with them.

8. For ye were sometimes darkness, but now are ye light in the Lord: walk as children of light:

9. For the fruit of the Spirit is in all goodness and righteousness and truth;

10. Proving what is acceptable unto the Lord.

11. And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them.

12. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret.

13. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light.

14. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light.

15. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise,

16. Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

The wisdom that God expects us to have is a wisdom based in meekness. There are some people who are wise but also arrogant. We are not to be that type of wise person. We show our wisdom not so much by the words we speak, but what we do. If we do what God expects of us, that shows wisdom, but if what we do is based on conflicted feelings where there is a touch of anger and hostility, there is nothing spiritual about that. The wisdom that we are to have is pure, peaceable, gentle, welcoming, merciful, showing spiritual fruit, and genuine. There can be nothing phony about the wisdom we are to have. James three verse thirteen.

James 3:13-18

13. Who is a wise man and endued with knowledge among you? let him shew out of a good conversation his works with meekness of wisdom.

- 14. But if ye have bitter envying and strife in your hearts, glory not, and lie not against the truth.**
- 15. This wisdom descendeth not from above, but is earthly, sensual, devilish.**
- 16. For where envying and strife is, there is confusion and every evil work.**
- 17. But the wisdom that is from above is first pure, then peaceable, gentle, and easy to be entreated, full of mercy and good fruits, without partiality, and without hypocrisy.**
- 18. And the fruit of righteousness is sown in peace of them that make peace.**

The wisdom we are to have might look foolish to this world, and that is because this world does not value truth and has rejected God to embrace the lie. What we believe we believe in faith, meaning we believe without having evidence to prove what we believe. That contrasts to how Paul describes Jews as needing a sign before they will believe, or the Greeks who use a logic test of wisdom to verify what they believe. By contrast we believe without any evidence. We seek or need no sign, and there is no logic test we run truth through. We believe what Jesus taught and what is taught in the Bible without evidence to support what we believe. To many, believing without evidence is foolish, and we should take that as a compliment because God has called the foolish of this world to confound those who think they are wise and mighty. First Corinthians one verse eighteen.

1 Corinthians 1:18-27

- 18. For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God.**
- 19. For it is written, I will destroy the wisdom of the wise, and will bring to nothing the understanding of the prudent.**
- 20. Where is the wise? where is the scribe? where is the disputer of this world? hath not God made foolish the wisdom of this world?**
- 21. For after that in the wisdom of God the world by wisdom knew not God, it pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe.**
- 22. For the Jews require a sign, and the Greeks seek after wisdom:**
- 23. But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness;**
- 24. But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.**
- 25. Because the foolishness of God is wiser than men; and the weakness of God is stronger than men.**

26. For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called:

27. But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty;

Going back to Matthew twenty-five, Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to a man who had to leave to travel a far distance and left workers in charge on his property. Before the man left, he gave them talents. Some received more talents and others received fewer talents. One of the workers who was given five talents earned five more talents by the time the man returned, having a total of ten talents. Another worker was given two talents and earned two more talents by the time the man returned. A third worker who was given just one talent simply buried the talent because he was afraid to lose what he was given. When the man returned, he praised and rewarded the workers who grew their talents and criticized and punished the worker who hid the only talent he was given, calling him lazy. Matthew twenty-five verse fourteen.

Matthew 25:14-30

14. For the kingdom of heaven is as a man travelling into a far country, who called his own servants, and delivered unto them his goods.

15. And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several ability; and straightway took his journey.

16. Then he that had received the five talents went and traded with the same, and made them other five talents.

17. And likewise he that had received two, he also gained other two.

18. But he that had received one went and digged in the earth, and hid his lord's money.

19. After a long time the lord of those servants cometh, and reckoneth with them.

20. And so he that had received five talents came and brought other five talents, saying, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me five talents: behold, I have gained beside them five talents more.

21. His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

22. He also that had received two talents came and said, Lord, thou deliveredst unto me two talents: behold, I have gained two other talents beside them.

23. His lord said unto him, Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord.

24. Then he which had received the one talent came and said, Lord, I knew thee that thou art an hard man, reaping where thou hast not sown, and gathering where thou hast not strawed:

25. And I was afraid, and went and hid thy talent in the earth: lo, there thou hast that is thine.

26. His lord answered and said unto him, Thou wicked and slothful servant, thou knewest that I reap where I sowed not, and gather where I have not strawed:

27. Thou oughtest therefore to have put my money to the exchangers, and then at my coming I should have received mine own with usury.

28. Take therefore the talent from him, and give it unto him which hath ten talents.

29. For unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath.

30. And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

As Christians we are to spiritually grow, and we have to be careful that we don't allow ourselves to become so scared of losing out on salvation that we bury the spiritual gifts we have been given. We can be so afraid of end-time prophecy it is that fear that is our focus and not spiritual growth. All of us have been given spiritual gifts. We might not have all been given the same kind or amount of spiritual gifts, but we are expected to grow and develop the spiritual gifts we have been given. Having been given spiritual gifts, we need to remember we were created in Jesus Christ to do good works. In other words, through Jesus Christ we do what God expects of us. We understand we cannot save ourselves because eternal life and forgiveness of sin comes through Jesus Christ as a gift. We have already been gifted incredible spiritual gifts, and it becomes our responsibility to grow those spiritual gifts. Ephesians two verse four.

Ephesians 2:4-10

4. But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us,

- 5. Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, by grace ye are saved;**
- 6. And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:**
- 7. That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in his kindness toward us through Christ Jesus.**
- 8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:**
- 9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.**
- 10. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

Peter shows that we are to use the spiritual gifts we have been given not only for our own benefit but for the benefit of others. It is when the spiritual gifts we have been given benefit others, that we are good stewards of the manifold grace of God. If the spiritual gifts we have been given involves speaking the word of God, we need to speak so that the glory goes to God through Jesus Christ. First Peter four verse seven.

1 Peter 4:7-11

- 7. But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer.**
- 8. And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins.**
- 9. Use hospitality one to another without grudging.**
- 10. As every man hath received the gift, even so minister the same one to another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God.**
- 11. If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God; if any man minister, let him do it as of the ability which God giveth: that God in all things may be glorified through Jesus Christ, to whom be praise and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.**

When it comes to the spiritual gifts we have been given, we need to remember that spiritual gifts come from God and lead to good, and that things that result in evil are not of God. James one verse thirteen.

James 1:13-18

13. Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man:

14. But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed.

15. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.

16. Do not err, my beloved brethren.

17. Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.

18. Of his own will begat he us with the word of truth, that we should be a kind of firstfruits of his creatures.

The spiritual gifts we have been given, like the talents of the parable, need to grow and multiply during our lifetime. We have been given incredible promises that we believe without evidence and through faith without proof we believe that one day we will have eternal life in the Kingdom of God. Seeking a kingdom that as Jesus said is not of this world, we also seek God's righteousness because the Kingdom of God will be a kingdom of righteousness. All of us began our pilgrimage of faith with belief and diligence. To those small talents must be added other talents, like virtue. We cannot be sneaky and conniving and somehow think that would be spiritually pleasing before God. If we are to do what God expects of us, we have to have a level of knowledge sufficient to our calling, which means we will increasingly become familiar with the Bible, meaning Bible study will be a constant presence in our lives. We will also develop self-control. What self-control looks like can be different based on what's happening in our body. Self-control looks different when a person is completely healthy, rested, and fed compared to a person who has not slept, is hungry, and has health challenges, but for us there is always a self-control perspective. We understand we are responsible for what we do. As we spiritually grow, we develop patience. Each passing year is another year of patience. We begin to live a godly lifestyle, and that does not mean we think we are like God, but it does mean we live our life doing those things God expects of us. We treat others with kindness, even if they aren't kind to us in return. What we do is done in love. If we want to be part of the Kingdom of God, like the workers in the parable who grew their talents, we will grow the fruit of the spirit. Second Peter one verse two.

2 Peter 1:2-11

- 2. Grace and peace be multiplied unto you through the knowledge of God, and of Jesus our Lord,**
- 3. According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue:**
- 4. Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.**
- 5. And beside this, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue; and to virtue knowledge;**
- 6. And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;**
- 7. And to godliness brotherly kindness; and to brotherly kindness charity.**
- 8. For if these things be in you, and abound, they make you that ye shall neither be barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**
- 9. But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins.**
- 10. Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall:**
- 11. For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**

If we spiritually grow like the workers in the parable grew their talents, we will be led by the Holy Spirit. If we are led by the Holy Spirit, we know we have forgiveness of sin and access to eternal life, and we will live our lives accordingly by not doing those things which are sin and lead to sin. We will live our lives doing those things aligned to what God expects of us, and will grow the fruit of the spirit. Galatians five verse sixteen.

Galatians 5:16-26

- 16. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh.**
- 17. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would.**
- 18. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law.**

- 19. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness,**
- 20. Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies,**
- 21. Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God.**
- 22. But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith,**
- 23. Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law.**
- 24. And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts.**
- 25. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit.**
- 26. Let us not be desirous of vain glory, provoking one another, envying one another.**

Even if we can check off every single fruit of the Spirit, and even if we can show we have thoroughly grown them, there is more for us yet to do. Jesus showed we cannot ignore those in need when it is within our ability to help them. Those who ignore others in need could find themselves on the losing side of eternal life and salvation. He taught that helping others in need is just like helping Him. Ignoring others in need is like ignoring Jesus Christ. It is those who help others when they are able who are saved while those who ignore the needs of others when they could have helped receive a much different fate. Matthew twenty-five verse thirty-one.

Matthew 25:31-46

- 31. When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory:**
- 32. And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats:**
- 33. And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left.**
- 34. Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:**
- 35. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in:**

36. Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.

37. Then shall the righteous answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, and fed thee? or thirsty, and gave thee drink?

38. When saw we thee a stranger, and took thee in? or naked, and clothed thee?

39. Or when saw we thee sick, or in prison, and came unto thee?

40. And the King shall answer and say unto them, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.

41. Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

42. For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

43. I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

44. Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

45. Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did it not to one of the least of these, ye did it not to me.

46. And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Paul wrote to the Colossians and told them as Christians they were to have many different spiritual qualities, qualities like mercy and kindness, humility, meekness, patience, tolerance, forgiving, and having love for one another. As we become aware of people in need and we have the capacity to help them, it is with the spiritual qualities that Paul mentioned we are to help. Colossians three verse twelve.

Colossians 3:12-17

12. Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsuffering;

13. Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye.

14. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness.

15. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.

16. Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.

17. And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him.

When he wrote the Ephesians, Paul told them that a benefit of working is being able to earn so that we can share with those in need. We need to be able to help people in need in a way that brings honor to God and Jesus Christ, where we do not grieve the Holy Spirit, where what we do is based on kindness, compassion, and forgiveness. Ephesians four verse twenty-five.

Ephesians 4:25-32

25. Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another.

26. Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27. Neither give place to the devil.

28. Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.

29. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.

30. And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.

31. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice:

32. And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

The Galatians were told to work for eternal life and to never give up on that pursuit, to not grow weary in well doing, and that as they had opportunity to do good to all people and especially to others of the household of faith. Galatians six verse seven.

Galatians 6:7-10

7. Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

9. And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

10. As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith.

In his first letter, John wrote about love and explained that because Jesus Christ laid down His life for us, we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren, remembering Jesus showed when we help others as we are able, it is like we would help Jesus Himself. John added and asked how we could even think that the love of God is within us if we see somebody in need, have the ability to help, and refuse to do so. He showed love is not an emotion but is shown by the actions we take while remaining true to the faith. First John three verse sixteen.

1 John 3:16-18

16. Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

17. But whoso hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the love of God in him?

18. My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth.

It was in his first letter to the Corinthians that Paul wrote of love, how love never fails. He explained that prophecies can fail, languages can vanish, and knowledge can be forgotten. When we think of the pyramids of Egypt, we know these exist, but we have lost the understanding of exactly how these were built. Paul encouraged them to put away childish things because the best we can do looking forward is like seeing through a dark smoky glass, showing we won't under the best of circumstances fully understand what prophetic symbolism in the Bible means. Like a dark smokey glass, there are some things we will understand and there will also be some things we will not comprehend. Paul then concluded that

among faith, hope, and love, love is the greatest of these three. First Corinthians thirteen verse eight.

1 Corinthians 13:8-13

8. Charity never faileth: but whether there be prophecies, they shall fail; whether there be tongues, they shall cease; whether there be knowledge, it shall vanish away.

9. For we know in part, and we prophesy in part.

10. But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away.

11. When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.

12. For now we see through a glass, darkly; but then face to face: now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known.

13. And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

We know that between now and the return of Jesus Christ there will be the great tribulation, a consequential time that is so severe and harsh that unless those days were cut short all people would die. We also know as mankind progresses through these end time events that wars and rumors of wars will persist, Christians will be persecuted, lies of false prophets will be embraced, and that it will be like the days of Noah were, where the thoughts of mankind are only on evil continually. Under those circumstances it also shown the love of many will grow cold, but our love cannot grow cold.

We also know that we must remain vigilant and always ready for the return of Jesus. We cannot allow ourselves to take a snooze from the faith we have. We also know that as we remain vigilant, we are expected to continually grow the fruit of the Holy Spirit. For us it is never good enough to maintain the status quo of what we were given. Spiritual growth is expected of all of us. Finally, having spiritual growth and doing what is expected of us by God includes showing love to others not in words or thoughts, but by what we do, and the very specific examples given to us by Jesus is helping people who are in need. We will remember the signs of the end time, we will remain vigilant, we will spiritually grow, and we will show our love to others by how we help them when they are in need.

Thank you for joining us today. God-willing we'll get together Monday for the Day of Atonement. Until then, thank you for joining us today.