

Coincidence... or a Sign?

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After posting an article titled “You Call Yourself a Christian,” with the sub-title, “But Are You... Really,” I have heard a minimum of six other popular Bible expositors posing the same exact question in their recent messages, not to mention numerous YouTube ministers, all advocating “Self-Examination” concerning one’s standing with God! What is going on here? I did not think for a moment, my writing had anything to do with it, as none of these other preachers would know me if they tripped over me let alone having possibly read any of my writings, but the question remains, “What is going on here?” Is this just coincidence... or is it perhaps an ominous sign prompted by God Himself through the Holy Spirit indicating that *something* is about to happen? If this is the case, which I believe it very well may be, I suggest that it might be time to start paying closer attention to things going on around us; something significant may indeed be about to happen! I too recommend some careful self examination; after all, throughout history, God has been consistent in giving repeated warnings and / or “signs” before initiating judgments. Is this “phenomena” of diverse preachers preaching similar messages, all stressing “self-examination” in fact a sign or warning to the world to be sure of your standing with God; what if something “radical” is indeed be about to take place? Many people are aware that Jesus said that He would return one day. However, many others, some Christians included, question the validity of that statement, pointing out that it has been almost 2 thousand years since Jesus made that promise, yet He has not yet returned! They mock “Eschatologists” saying we are fools for believing the Bible, stating it is all a myth.

Mockers a sign of the times...

Rather than giving my opinion concerning these mockers of the Word of God, I will merely present what the Bible has to say about them.

2 Peter 3:1-4 (NKJV)

¹ Beloved, I now write to you this second epistle (in *both* of which I stir up your pure minds by way of reminder), ² that you may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us, the apostles of the Lord and Savior, ³ ***knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, ⁴ and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation."***

I can understand why many people have more or less given up on the promise that Jesus made; after all, it has been a long time. However, there is a “simple explanation,” that is given just a few more verses down from the one above.

2 Peter 3:9 (NKJV)

⁹ The Lord is not slack concerning *His* promise, as some count slackness, but is longsuffering toward us, not willing that any should perish but that all should come to repentance.

Could it be that we are nearing the fulfillment of the promise? I remember a cartoon years ago at the height of the “Cold War.” It was a bar scene showing people sitting around with drinks in hand when an ICBM (Ballistic Missile for the youngsters out there) comes crashing through the roof with the nose sticking in the bar! The bartender casually looks at the Russian Star on the side of the missile and says, “Last Call!” Could we be nearing the “Last Call” for repentance before the return of Jesus? Something to think about as God ***always*** keeps His promises.

John 14:6-7 (NKJV)

⁶ Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷ “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.”