

# Life Group Notes 5/18/2025

## Pastor Mark Warren Kingdom

### Come Week 9

No doctrine is a given unless it has been found in the Word given by the Holy Spirit and received by you. If you have observations or questions, feel free to send me an email with your comment or observations at [tbeachhead@comcast.net](mailto:tbeachhead@comcast.net). Thank you for taking the time.

– *Pete Mehegan, the Scribe.*

**Remember:** Be good to one another. Be sensitive and kind. Let God heal our heart and guide our discussions.

***Please pre-read these notes and choose the direction that is appropriate for your group.***

Be cognizant of your group's time and be sensitive. *Some groups would like to dwell on a single idea. Let the Spirit be your guide. Never feel obligated to complete this study.*

**Note:** I have highlighted suggested discussion questions that Pastor Mark has raised this week, 5/18. Let's allow the Holy Spirit to guide all our discussions, using the highlights as trail blazes. ***The purpose is to minister to one another.*** I include each of the passages mentioned in full, to facilitate the enjoyment of these notes. Footnotes are not meant to distract. This week's footnotes speak...

1. [On the meaning of eschatology.](#)
2. [On "heaven" in biblical languages.](#)
3. [On doomsday predictions.](#)
4. [On knowing the time of Jesus' return.](#)
5. [On the 'thief in the night' warning.](#)
6. [On the days of Noah vs. the days of Lot.](#)

**Important:** At [the very end of these notes](#), I've included passages that were mentioned in this week's message for deeper study using SOAP journaling to help further your study during the week.

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Pastor again gave us the outline for this week's message, drawn from Matthew 24. These notes will cover:

- ⑥ What signs should we be watching for?
- ⑥ What happens if we're not ready?
- ⑥ How do we live alert in a world that says, "peace and security"?
  1. Answer each question.
  2. What do you remember?

## The Signs to be Watching For

Mark began by talking about “Black Beauty,” his ancient Suburban that now has 284,000 miles, and she’s reaching her end times. Pastor Mark says he knows the signs, and he’s “very attuned” to all the noises and warning lights that could come on.

1. How is your car an apt illustration of the need to know signs and seasons?
2. Do you prefer seeing the gauges? Or are you happy with the “engine warning light?” Explain.
3. Do you pay attention to the expiration dates on the products on your shelf?
4. What gizmos do we have to issue warnings of the changing times? Which do you trust?

Jesus said there are times that we need to be aware of, and he set warning lights on our “dashboard.”

1. Are you aware of any?
2. What are you looking for in particular? Do you have a list?
3. What is your attitude toward the “times of the end?”
4. How do you prepare?

Pastor Mark promised, “First of all, know this: I am not going to proclaim when Jesus is coming back, because nobody knows when He is coming back for sure.” Then he calls attention to Matthew 24:[36](#) *No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.*

1. What do we learn from this verse?
2. How is it possible for the Son not to know?
3. Who does know?
4. How many times has the world come to “an end” that you know of? How many time in your lifetime have you seen predictions fail? (See [footnote 3 below](#) for more.)

Pastor spoke of May 21, 2011, when Harold Camping, with billboards, proclaimed the end times. Then he changed the dates. He spoke of Y2K, the “Millennial bug” that would infect all computers, and would break them all. He then mentioned the “end of the Mayan calendar” in 2012. Since the Mayan calendar ended, the Mayans knew something we didn’t know. Then he revisited the “Blood Moons” of 2014-2015 that caused such a stir.

We had to know that this was the sign of Jesus’ return.

1. What do you remember of these times?
2. Did you think of others?
3. Can you list 88 reasons why the Rapture will not happen in 1988? (Edgar C. Whisenant)
4. Why does it take 88 reasons to know something will happen, and only one reason to know that it won’t?
5. The Wikipedia article in [footnote 3 below](#) lists thousands of years of doomsday predictions. How many had you heard of?
6. Why are we so prone to make these predictions?
7. Why are we so prone to believe them?
8. Has Jesus asked us to know something He Himself didn’t even know?
9. What has He asked us to do, knowing that these **are OUR** very last days, at least for each of us, because they’re the very last days we get to live in?

Pastor listed the signs Jesus told us of in Matthew 24:

- ⑥ **5** *For many will come in My name, claiming, 'I am the Christ,' and will deceive many. There will be false Messiahs. **Many will be deceived by them.***
1. How do you not get fooled?
  2. What do you need in order to recognize a counterfeit?
  3. How do you get to know the real Jesus?
- ⑥ **6** *You will hear of wars and rumors of wars, but see to it that you are not alarmed. These things must happen, but the end is still to come. **7** Nation will rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in various places. **8** All these are the beginning of birth pains. **There will be wars and rumors of wars.***
1. How many wars do you see today?
  2. How many rumors are you hearing?
  3. How many wars were we seeing one hundred years ago? Two hundred years ago? One thousand years ago?
  4. Is this a good sign to base doomsday predictions on?
- ⑥ **9** *Then they will deliver you over to be persecuted and killed, and you will be hated by all nations because of My name. **There will be persecution of believers.***
1. Is this a good predictor of His return? Why or why not?
  2. What do you know of persecution today?
  3. What do you know of persecution one hundred years ago? One thousand years ago?
  4. What does persecution look like for us in the Capital area?
  5. What does it look like for brothers and sisters in Turkey or Pakistan?
  6. What does it look like for brothers and sisters in China? In North Korea?
  7. Pastor says, "I believe that persecution happens in the spirit as well. When you are chasing after Jesus, guess what! You have an enemy that wants to kill, steal and destroy. In the spirit, you will be persecuted. The enemy will go after you." Do you have a testimony?
  8. Is this apt in light of what others are facing?
  9. Have you ever been threatened because of your faith? Do you have a testimony?
- ⑥ **12** *Because of the multiplication of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold. **13** But the one who perseveres to the end will be saved. **Iniquity and wickedness will abound, and because of this, even friendships will suffer.***
1. What have you seen? Does wickedness abound?
  2. In what areas specifically?
  3. Is this normal? Or is it getting worse? Explain.
  4. Are you concerned?
  5. Have you lost friends?
  6. Did you know that Jesus prophesied this, and this is what fulfillment looks like?
  7. What have been your thoughts?
  8. Pastor referenced what Paul warned Timothy of in his second epistle, chapter 3: **1** *But understand this: In the last days terrible times will come. **2** For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant,*

*abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, 3unloving, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, without love of good, 4traitorous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, 5having a form of godliness but denying its power. Turn away from such as these! What do you see in Paul's warning? What does love grown cold look like?*

9. Does Paul's description match anything in you? Does it match anything you've seen lately, in the news or in your neighborhood?
  10. Do you think our love might be growing cold?
  11. What's the difference between lovers of themselves, and those who love their neighbors as themselves?
  12. Even if these are **not** the end times, how do we know these are very dangerous times? What must we be aware of and avoid in ourselves?
  13. How are you doing?
- ⑥ 14*And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. **The Gospel will be preached.*** "And," he says, "by the way, that's close. Almost every people group has been targeted and disciples sent."

Pastor says these signs are good to be aware of. He then points us to verse 32*Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its branches become tender and sprout leaves, you know that summer is near. 33So also, when you see all these things, you will know that He is near, right at the door. 34Truly I tell you, this generation will not pass away until all these things have happened. 35Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will never pass away.*

1. Do we need a fig tree to tell us what season it is?
2. What does the fig tree in blossom remind us of?
3. Why is it important to remember sweet, healthy fruit in dark changing times?
4. In reference to Holy Week, an old black, Baptist preacher, S.M. Lockridge was famous for preaching, "It's Friday now, but Sunday's a coming." How was he "looking at the fig tree" on Good Friday?
5. How important is it to be prepared?
6. Are you a "prepper?" Do you have advice to share?

Pastor emphasized an important fact to remember: Jesus is returning to this earth. He added, "It might not be in our lifetime...but we have to be getting ready to meet Jesus face to face."

1. Have you thought of what it will be like for you personally, when you meet Jesus face to face...say...five minutes from now? An hour from now? In one hundred years?
2. If Jesus is truly alive in you, as we claim, how really do you meet Him daily? Recently? Has He told you anything new that we need to hear?
3. If you're as close as your neighbor gets to the real Jesus Himself, how much of Jesus do you show him?
4. How do you make disciples?
5. We talk about "being one with the Lord." What does that mean?
6. In terms of the "Last Days" and answers to prayers, look at Jesus' last prayer specifically for us in John 17: "20*I am not asking on behalf of them alone, but also*

*on behalf of those who will believe in Me through their message, [21](#)that all of them may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I am in You. May they also be in Us, so that the world may believe that You sent Me. [22](#)I have given them the glory You gave Me, so that they may be one as We are one— [23](#)I in them and You in Me—that they may be perfectly united, so that the world may know that You sent Me and have loved them just as You have loved Me.”* What, in specific terms does an answer to this prayer look like?

7. How is this the antidote to the love grown cold in Matthew?
8. Have you seen this prayer answered? To what degree?
9. To what degree do you believe the Father will answer this prayer that His Son prayed on your behalf? When do you expect to begin to see an answer?
10. What do you think: Is the answer to this prayer “pie in the sky by and by?” Or can we expect the answer imminently?
11. What steps will hasten the answer to this prayer?

Mark then went on to these verses: [26](#)*So if they tell you, ‘There He is, in the wilderness,’ do not go out, or, ‘Here He is, in the inner rooms,’ do not believe it. [27](#)For just as the lightning comes from the east and flashes as far as the west, so will be the coming of the Son of Man. [28](#)Wherever there is a carcass, there the vultures will gather.*

1. What sign do you not follow?
2. How swiftly will that day come? How much warning did you have before the thunder and the lightning struck Saturday night?
3. Are you a vulture? Do you follow vultures? What are you not supposed seek as the vultures do?
4. If you do not “...seek the living among the dead,” where do you seek the living?
5. Jesus tells us in advance that “...many will be deceived.” Why is prophecy effective in preventing deception?
6. What is the difference between fortune telling, which is forbidden by the Law, and prophecy, which is described as exhortation, edification and comfort?
7. How does one respond to fortune telling? How should one respond to prophecy?
8. Do you use proven prophecy to plan your next steps? Do you have advice?
9. Mark reminds us, “Jesus will return in power and glory, and the world will know.” How will His actual return be different from the dates that were mistakenly chosen by men? What if He returns in power *IN US* first? What will that change?

### **What if we are not ready?**

Pastor warns us, “There are dangers in feeling too comfortable. All of a sudden our global leaders are ironing out peace deals. All of a sudden, our global economy that seemed to be unraveling seems to be coming together. It looks like we’re out of hot water.” He says, “That is a very challenging place to be, when everyone seems to be saying, ‘Peace and tranquility. It’s time to relax a little.’”

1. Explain.
2. Look at what Paul told the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians 5: [2](#)For you are fully aware that the Day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. [3](#)While people are saying, “Peace and security,” destruction will come upon them suddenly, like labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape. [4](#)But you, brothers, are not in the darkness so that this day should overtake you like a thief...
3. Why is complacency so dangerous?

4. According to Jesus here in this chapter, of which should the church be more wary? Wars and rumors of wars? Or of news of “peace, prosperity and security?”
5. Have you known a pregnant woman in the last weeks of her gestation? How swiftly does labor come on? If today is like birth pangs, how much time is left for us?
6. How dangerous are those last moments? What are the rewards of enduring?
7. Explain why Paul, in Ephesians 5, says this: “**13***But everything exposed by the light becomes visible, for everything that is illuminated becomes a light itself. **14**So it is said: “Wake up, O sleeper, rise up from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.” **15***Pay careful attention, then, to how you walk, not as unwise but as wise,*” Is Paul preaching the same message as Pastor Mark?*
8. Do you want your work illuminated, or kept in shadows?

Look further at these verses: **36***No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.* **37***As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. **38**For in the days before the flood, people were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. **39**And they were oblivious until the flood came and swept them all away. So will it be at the coming of the Son of Man. **40**Two men will be in the field: one will be taken and the other left. **41**Two women will be grinding at the mill: one will be taken and the other left.*

1. How many were the days of Noah before anything unusual happened?
2. What were the people of the day doing? Mark says, “Basically, they were conducting life. They were doing life.” What did that involve?
3. Look at [footnote 6, below](#). What were they doing in the days of Noah that they stopped doing in the days of Lot?
4. What was the first unusual thing that might have served his neighbors as a warning?
5. Had it ever rained on the earth prior to the flood? Why would constructing a boat three football fields long, in drydock where there is no neighboring body of water, and loading it with a menagerie, appear strange to one’s neighbors?
6. Look at verse forty. In the context of Noah, is the good guy the one who is taken? Or the one who is left behind?
7. Who “got taken” in Noah’s day, and who got left behind to carry on after the storm?
8. Do you want to be taken? Or left behind?
9. Is the message for us, “Get taken,” “Be left behind,” or... “Stay awake.”
10. Why is it imperative to be awake and alert at all times? How important is your theology compared to your state of alertness to the day and the hour?
11. The disciples all thought Jesus would return in their day. What happened?
12. How do we know of a certainty that the end is nearer in our day than it was in theirs, without even looking at any Blood Moons, Super Moons or Moonies?
13. Mark says, “The time is short for every single one of us.” Is that a good thing, or a bad thing? Explain.

### How do we prepare?

- ⑥ **Keep watch.** Look at these verses from Matthew 24: **42***Therefore keep watch, because you do not know the day on which your Lord will come.* Review the parable of the 10 virgins in the next chapter, chapter 25.
  1. What did the wise bridesmaids do to prepare?
  2. Did they stay awake?



3. What did they assess first and verify before they allowed themselves to sleep?

4. What traps are being laid for the church, of which we should beware?

- ⑥ **Be faithful in what God is calling you to do.** Look here: ***45**Who then is the faithful and wise servant, whom the master has put in charge of his household, to give the others their food at the proper time? **46**Blessed is that servant whose master finds him doing so when he returns. **47**Truly I tell you, he will put him in charge of all his possessions. **48**But suppose that servant is wicked and says in his heart, 'My master will be away a long time.' **49**And he begins to beat his fellow servants and to eat and drink with drunkards. **50**The master of that servant will come on a day he does not expect and at an hour he does not anticipate. **51**Then he will cut him to pieces and assign him a place with the hypocrites, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

1. What do you see?
2. What does the wise servant do?
3. What does he not do? Make a list from these verses.
4. What reward does wisdom ensure?
5. What is the fate of the wicked?
6. What have you been called to do?

- ⑥ **Don't delay in obedience.** ***43**But understand this: If the homeowner had known in which watch of the night the thief was coming, he would have kept watch and would not have let his house be broken into. **44**For this reason, you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour you do not expect.*

1. How is that "big events" are more a distraction than a propitious time to prepare?
2. If 9/11 had been the "last day," were you prepared on that day or have you been happy to learn you had this much more time? Explain.
3. Here's a specific word of warning: A thief has been scheduled to come in the night between now and your very last day, and the specific schedule is known to One Who makes schedules. What is your response?
4. What are your next steps? Make a list of those you would want to protect.

- ⑥ **Be "living ready?"** What does that mean? Pastor says, "Think of the last messages you've heard at Grace Capital. Did you feel condemned? That is the enemy." Explain:

1. Does prophecy ever condemn, steal, kill or destroy?
2. How does hope and conviction help and not hinder?
3. How does prophecy bring life, and more abundantly?
4. How does the prophetic word set you free?
5. How does prophecy reveal the way as an open door?
6. How does prophecy *prepare* the way after it reveals it?

Mark points out how important this theme of preparedness is throughout the Bible. He brought us to Revelation 22: ***12**"Behold, I am coming soon, and My reward is with Me, to give to each one according to what he has done. **13**I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." **14**Blessed are those who wash their robes, so that they may have the right to the tree of life and may enter the city by its gates. **15**But outside are the dogs, the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices falsehood.*

1. Key principle: How are the robes in Revelation washed?
2. How does blood wash the flesh we wear as a garment? From the outside in? Or from the inside out. Explain.
3. Why is “Christ in you” our only hope of cleansing? Is there any other way than the Blood in our innermost being to make us clean?
4. Look who is outside. What steps does this knowledge suggest for us, as long as we have breath? What do we avoid? Whom do we seek until they are found?

Continuing, **16**“I, Jesus, have sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the Root and the Offspring of David, the bright Morning Star.” **17**The Spirit and the bride say, “Come!” Let the one who hears say, “Come!” And let the one who is thirsty come, and the one who desires the water of life drink freely.

1. Is this prophecy about today, or about a time in the distant future?
2. Why did Jesus send His angel? To condemn us or to prepare us?
3. How will anyone hear unless they have been told by someone?
4. If out of your belly flow rivers of living water, who benefits today?
5. Have you drunk freely?
6. At what time of day does the Morning Star shine? What time is it right now, then?
7. Does this fact change your sense of urgency?
8. Is the church ready? Will she stay ready?
9. Are you “all in 100%?” If you become compromised do you quickly repent?
10. Do you receive forgiveness? Do you forgive freely?

#### Follow up application:

1. Use the [Soap study below](#) to pursue your own understanding.
2. Do a love inventory. Ask in what way are you benefiting your family. ...your neighbor. Jot down notes.
3. Pray the John 17 prayer over you and your family. Journal any results you see as soon as you see them.
4. Make a list of things you know you have been called to do. Take an assessment. Do you have the oil necessary for the task?

**Take the time to pray.**

#### Scribe's Footnotes:

1. **On the meaning of “eschatology”**—The word comes from the Greek *eschatos*, the end, as opposed to *protos*, the beginning. It's the study of end times. As Pastor Mark pointed out, eschatology often gets turned into frivolous conjecture. Since we cannot know the end, it's open to conjecture...which the wise do well to avoid.
2. **On “heaven” in the biblical languages**—It's no accident that the same words in Hebrew שָׁמַיִם, *shamayin* and οὐρανός, *ouranos*, in Greek can be translated “heaven” or sky, and the translator has to guess by context to complete his translation. English has the two words, heaven and sky, distinct in meaning. The root languages of the Bible do not. Interestingly, the French word for “sky” or “heaven” is *ciel*, Spanish is *cielo*. German and Swedish use the same word. Translators do not need to make the choice. Of the western European languages, Italian can vary their translation, using *paradiso* for heaven. Interestingly enough, the Italians have chosen to the



transliteration the Greek word for “paradise”, *παράδεισος, pardeisos*, a word all European languages seem to share, which is drawn from “an ancient Persian word meaning ‘enclosure, garden, park.’”

3. **On doomsday predictions**—Wikipedia has a great page on the doomsday predictions that have been published throughout world history. Enjoy this one: [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\\_of\\_dates\\_predicted\\_for\\_apocalyptic\\_events](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List_of_dates_predicted_for_apocalyptic_events)
4. **On knowing the time of Jesus’ return**—The problem of the time of “Jesus’ return” has been debated throughout church history. Pastor Mark seems more and more to ask this question: When will Jesus return...to the Church which is established on the earth to be His sole representative? Thus we should be daily asking the question, has the Son of God returned...to my workplace today...*in me* as He should?
5. **On the ‘thief in the night’ warning**—I counted seven references in the New Testament alone warning of His imminent return coming without further warning at any moment, “like a thief in the night.” Here’s a partial list from BibleHub: <https://biblehub.com/matthew/24-43.htm> Is it good to be forewarned? Or dangerous?
6. **On the days of Noah vs. the days of Lot**—Luke, in chapter 17, adds to Jesus’ comparison that He made in Matthew to the days of Noah, and includes the days of Lot: *27People were eating and drinking, marrying and being given in marriage, up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. 28It was the same in the days of Lot: People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. 29But on the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all.* Do you notice any differences between the activities taking place in the days of Noah, compared to what was not happening in the days of Lot? Which generation do we most resemble?

### For further study:

Take a moment each day this week to apply the **SOAP method** (Scripture—Copy the scripture. / Observation—Write what you see. / Application—Write what God is saying. / Prayer—Write what your response is.) to some of the scripture we looked at this week:

Monday: 2 Timothy 3:1-5
Tuesday: Matthew 24:12-13, 35
Wednesday: Matthew 24:4-8
Thursday: Matthew 24:22-25, 26-28
Friday: Matthew 24:42-44
Saturday: 1 Thessalonians 5:2-4
Sunday: Matthew 24:37-39, Luke 17:27-29

Once again, some passages suggested here have more than the usual number of verses. This is not to increase the burden but to provide clarity of context. Pick the verses that speak to you most clearly, and run these through the SOAP steps.