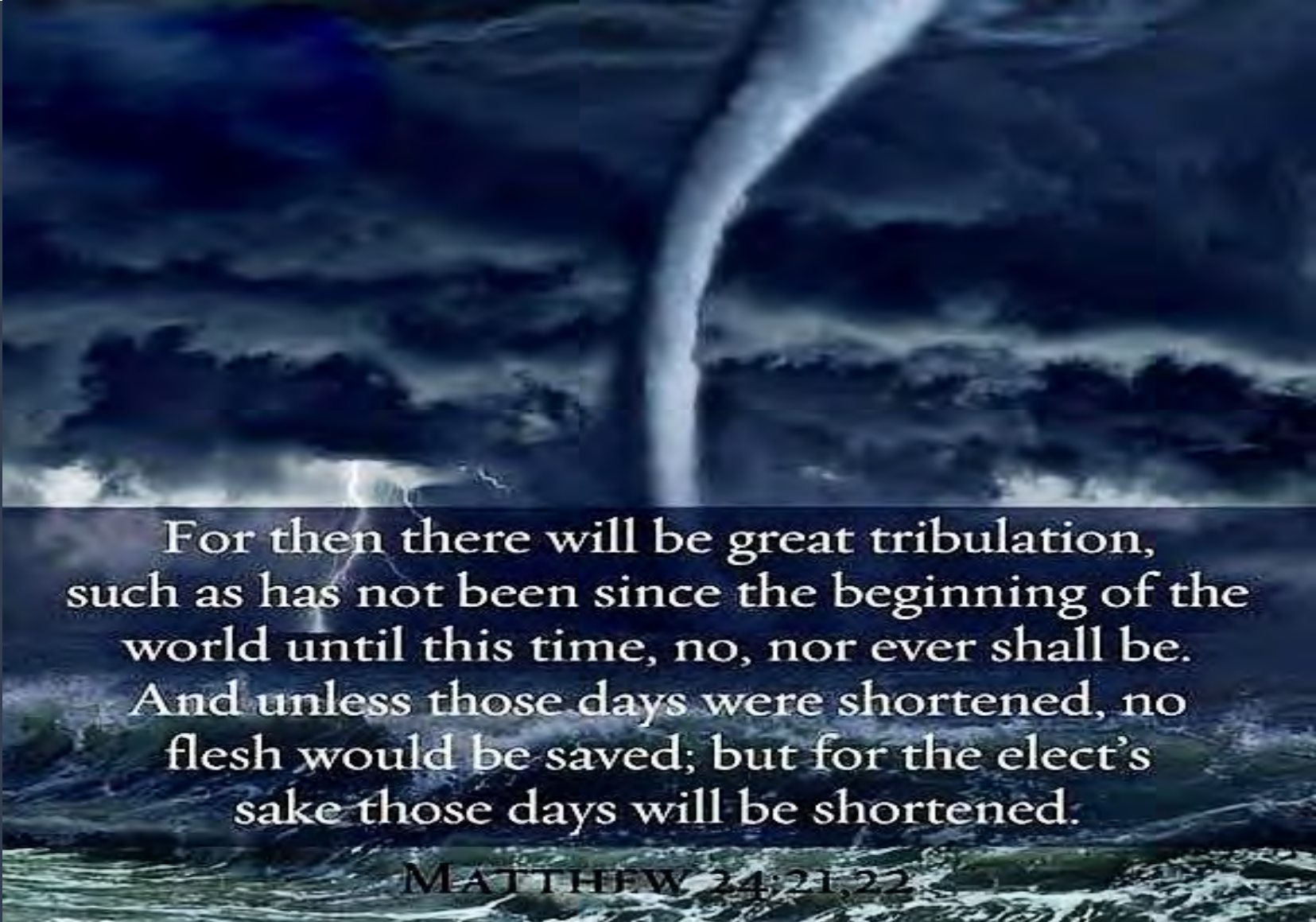


Beware of the Traps – *They Catch Men!*

Matthew 22: 15-22

May 21, 2023



For then there will be great tribulation,
such as has not been since the beginning of the
world until this time, no, nor ever shall be.
And unless those days were shortened, no
flesh would be saved; but for the elect's
sake those days will be shortened.

MATTHEW 24:21,22



Verse 15 - 16a

The trappers - *the Pharisees and Herodians*

In Jesus' world and our world, we are living in a world of traps

*“For among My people are found
wicked men; they lie in wait as one
who sets snares; they set a trap;
they catch men.”*

Jeremiah 5: 26 NKJV



Satan is a murderer and a liar, he hates mankind!

You belong to your father, the devil,
and you want to carry out your
father's desires. He was a murderer
from the beginning, not holding to
the truth, for there is no truth in him.

When he lies, he speaks his
native language, for he is a liar
and the father of lies.

John 8:44



Beware of the world's philosophy traps

Colossians 2:8 (NIV)

[8] See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the basic principles of this world rather than on Christ.

Beware of the “*love*” trap – there are things that Jesus does not love!

Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, love for the Father is not in them. For everything in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever.

1 John 2:15-17

Verse 16b - 17

The trappers set a trap

Beware of the flattery trap!

What is flattery

Flattery is when excessive and insincere praise is given to person or audience, especially to further one's own interests. Flattery, can be used to persuade people into believing your contention. People can be persuaded not by the Strength of the argument but they can be tricked by flattery into believing the contention.

Satan is an expert at trapping people!

His goal: *Your demise!!*

There is always some real cheese in a rat trap!



These trappers are learning no one can trap God!!



Verse 18 - 19

Jesus calls out the trappers

Jesus sees through the charade,
“you hypocrites”

The masquerade trap – *things are not as they seem!*

II Corinthians 11:13-15

- **13 For such *are* false apostles, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. 14 And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. 15 Therefore *it is* no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works.**

Verse 20 - 22

Jesus' tactics in the trap

Jesus' tactic: Ask a question

Greg Koukl, in his book *"Tactics"*, gives us three tactics to use in a dispute for the truth – ASK

1) **What do you mean by that?**

(Puts the emphasis back on the other person)

2) **How did you come to that conclusion?**

(Makes the person think about their statement)

3) **Have you ever considered?**

(Your chance to give them a Biblical view)

The Pharisees and Herodians are blown away by Jesus' response

“ they marveled, and left Him and went their way”

Love Him or hate Him , our world cannot help but admire Jesus!

CLOSING THOUGHTS:

The world citizen trap:

Go along to get along; don't make waves

In a sense, we are dual citizens:

Live, work, vote, and die here, but we do not belong here

We are temporary citizens here on visa; our real citizenship is not here, *it is with God!*

We look forward to our real eternal home!


Hebrews 11:13-16



These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

The New Jerusalem is cube shaped, having sides of 1,500 miles each.

1,500 miles tall

 Bibleinfo

1,500 miles per side

 Bibleinfo

**God has established governments and
Christians are to be good citizens**

BUT

**If the governments are against the
precepts of God, we cannot obey**

“We ought to obey God rather than man”

Acts 5: 29

Beware of the *“ignore God”* trap

Romans 13: 1 gives clear instructions for our dual citizenship: *“Let every person be subject to the governing authorities”*

1 Peter 2: 13 - *“Be subject for the Lord’s sake to every human institution”*

Subject = *“hupotasso”* = to place in an orderly fashion under something, under a superior

Believers are to submit to government *unless* told by that government to disobey God

What did Jesus advocate for His followers?

Speak the truth in the culture!

We are to be ambassadors of Christ

2 Corinthians 5: 20

We are living in a changing America!

If the people are corrupt, the republic will be corrupt and not stand!

Beware of the government god trap:

Give you everything, own nothing
and be happy (*Communism 101*)

What America is experiencing today is
termed "*soft totalitarianism*"

People run from totalitarian regimes

Totalitarianism

- ▣ A government that takes total, centralized, state control over every aspect of public and private life
 - Police terror
 - Indoctrination
 - Propaganda and censorship
 - Religious or ethnic persecution



Christians today are living in a world that is transitioning to totalitarianism, antichrist system



How to avoid the Christian passivity trap:

- 1) Live filled with the Holy Spirit
(toe in Christianity will not help you)
- 2) Speak out in the public domain with the truth! *One word of truth counters a world of lies!*
- 3) **VOTE!!** While we are free, do not sit on the sidelines
- 4) Stay connected, *support one another!*

Many Christians today want to take up arms – is this what Jesus advocated?

NO!!

Many want to sit back and do nothing – is this what Jesus advocated?

NO!!

Many want peace at all costs, peace at the cost of truth – is this what Jesus advocated?

NO!!

This is a battle of worldviews –
Secular vs Biblical

While we are still free,
engage with the truth!

JOHN 8:32
AND YOU WILL KNOW THE TRUTH,
AND THE TRUTH WILL SET YOU

FREE

The trap is to give up!

DON'T!!

FIGHT, FAITH, & FINISH

2 TIMOTHY 4:6-8

While here as dual citizens, **I will represent my Lord!**

May this be our battle cry:


I WILL TRUST IN THE LORD UNTIL I DIE!

There is a new world coming!

In the meantime

BEWARE OF THE TRAPS!

THEY CATCH MEN!!

A photograph of a spiderweb stretched between thin, vertical sticks in a field. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, hazy glow. The text is overlaid on the web.

DON'T FALL
FOR THE
TRAP

A close-up photograph of a grey cat's face. The cat has large, wide, yellow eyes and a slightly open mouth, giving it a surprised or alarmed expression. It is wearing a light blue collared shirt.

IT'S A TRAP!

In Jesus' world and our world, we are living in a world of traps

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