

Eastside Baptist Church

Eastside Messenger

Equipping the Saints for Ministry by First Seeking the Kingdom of God
(Ephesians 4:12/Matthew 6:33)

Volume XII Issue X

Every day is a priceless gift of God

OCTOBER 2017

Should Christians Date Unbelievers?



When the people of Israel entered the Promised Land, they were given many commands from God. One in particular is repeated over and over: "Do not intermarry with [the pagan peoples around you]. Do not give your daughters to their sons or take their daughters for your sons." God spells out His reason for this command in Deuteronomy 7:3: "They will turn your sons away from following Me to serve other gods."

This played out tragically in the life of King Solomon, whose pagan wives led him into idolatry, and ultimately contributed to the fracture of the kingdom. "Do not be unequally yoked with unbelievers," Paul reiterates in 2 Corinthians. Christian widows, he continues, are free to remarry, but "only in the Lord." Now

why am I talking about all this? Because sex has the power to shape our beliefs, and participating in the romantic and sexual practices of unbelievers can eventually wear down even the strongest faith.

And if University of Texas sociology professor Mark Regnerus is right, the pattern that ruined Solomon is repeating itself in the American church today. Regnerus has spent years studying this topic and has just released a new book entitled, "Cheap Sex: The Transformation of Men, Marriage, and Monogamy." Writing in the Washington Post, he summarizes one of his key findings: "Cheap sex...has a way of deadening religious impulses."

In the recent hubbub over millennials leaving the church and identifying as "spiritual but not religious," Regnerus thinks we haven't paid enough attention to how secular sexual practices "erode religious belief." "It's not science that's secularizing Americans," he concludes. "It's sex." One of the main problems is that many young Christians aren't following the rules that Moses and Paul taught. They're dating extensively outside of the faith, which means they're susceptible to trends in the wider "mating market." And arguably the trend that's most impacted how Americans find love in the 21st century is cohabitation.

Regnerus describes the romantic life typical of many Christian young people: "They want love, like everybody else. They couple. Sex often follows, though sometimes after a longer period of time." The Christian belief in saving sex for marriage erodes away due to the pounding cultural message "As long as we love each other, it's okay."

Regnerus previously found that ninety percent of American young people will have sex before getting married, including a majority of Christian young people. Compromise here correlates with relaxed standards on other issues. Of Americans who regularly attend religious services, 23 percent say they're unsure whether living together outside of marriage is immoral; 21 percent say they don't know what they think of no-strings attached sex.

One in four aren't willing to condemn pornography. In fact, that last trend is especially severe. According to Yale sociologist Justin Farrell, evangelicals under thirty are consistently more permissive of pornography than their parents were. In light of all these numbers, is it any wonder that fewer and fewer young people are tying the knot, and are doing so later and later?

Only 56 percent of never-married religious adults say they would prefer to be married. Demographer Steven Ruggles predicts that an unprecedented one in three 20-somethings will never say "I do." And even more significant, many who don't marry will cohabit or practice serial monogamy instead, both of which--unsurprisingly--predict a drop-off in church attendance.

What emerges from Regnerus' new research is a strong case that beliefs about God don't just shape our behavior. Quite often, it's our behavior shaping our beliefs about God. And as it turns out, that's especially true of with whom we choose to be yoked.



**Rev. Dr. Arthur C. Banks
1st Lady Jacquie Banks**

*"This is the day that the Lord has made;
we will rejoice and be glad in it"
(Psalm 118:24)*

From the Editor
Eric Grimes

*This year marks **12 continuous years** of publication for the Messenger! If you would like to contribute information, pictures or articles, please submit them to: erg58@aol.com. The Media Ministry is going digital; you can now download Audio and Video worship services to your portable devices. See me for the link.*

Articles and views expressed in this publication are presented for the information and benefit of the members of Eastside Baptist Church, and may not necessarily reflect the position of the Church.

Church Motto:

Where God is praised and Disciples Are Made



HE>i

MEDITATE ON THE MESSAGE

*"So then faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the word of God"
(Romans 10:17)*

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"Jehovah heals"

"I WILL PRAISE THEE; FOR I AM FEARFULLY AND WONDERFULLY MADE: MARVELLOUS ARE THY WORKS; AND THAT MY SOUL KNOWETH RIGHT WELL."

(Psalm 139:14)

The Quest for health continues! Take control of your health.



Should You Eat Less Salt – Or More?

Is salt a white poison, like sugar and flour? Or is it essential and

something a lot of people are deficient in? Could you feel better by including *more* salt in your diet?

The role of salt is often discussed, and warnings against salt usually win big headlines.

Questionable Scientific Support

A relevant [scientific review](#) showed that there is no evidence that a reduced salt intake affects the risk of heart disease or life expectancy. And the reduction in blood pressure level is often marginal: [The New York Times: No Benefit Seen in Sharp Limits on Salt in Diet](#), [The New York Times: Salt, We Misjudged You](#).

To further complicate the picture people get most of their salt intake from processed and junk food. Often from low-fat products, where the salt helps restore some of the lost flavor. Furthermore, there's a lot of salt in bread and soda.

In other words: if you try to eat less salt you're also avoiding junk food. So if a benefit is observed in studies (unclear, according to articles above) – then what was the cause? Less salt or less sugar and starch? We can't know.

Conclusion

Avoid junk food and bread. This will make you avoid unnecessary amounts of salt. Whether you'd benefit from a further reduction in your salt intake, is *highly* doubtful. It may also be that an increased salt intake is only a risk factor in combination with a high-carb diet. High insulin levels cause water and salt retention in the body. You may experience bloating (for example around your ankles) and your blood pressure may increase.

Risk of Salt Deficiency?

Eating a low-carb diet, thus reducing your insulin levels, will often make you excrete more fluid and the bloating goes away. In addition, you'll lose more salt in your urine.

Losing more salt at the same time that you're avoiding overly salty junk food may push you into salt deficiency. This is most typical when you first switch to LCHF, but may also appear much later.

Symptoms and Solutions

Typical symptoms of salt deficiency are dizziness, headache and fatigue (especially, but not exclusively, in the context of exercising). It can also cause difficulty concentrating ("brain fog") and increase the risk of constipation.

Fortunately there's a simple way to cure this: drink a glass of salt water. Pour a big glass of water Mix in half a teaspoon of common salt: Drink

If your symptoms improve significantly or disappear within 15-30 minutes, they were caused by salt deficiency and/or dehydration.

Health Disclaimer: *The information provided in this article should not be construed as personal medical advice or instruction. No action should be taken based solely on the contents of this article. Readers should consult appropriate health professionals on any matter relating to their health and well-being. The information and opinions provided here are believed to be accurate and sound, based on the best judgment available to the author, but readers who fail to consult appropriate health authorities assume the risk of any injuries. The Editor is not responsible for errors or omissions.*





THE RAPTURE: PRE-TRIBULATION OR POST?

Jesus has already come to this earth once, and He brought salvation with Him. Yes, I confess that Jesus is the Messiah and my sins were blotted out with His own blood. We all have the same choice; He has the power and the authority. His blood can either blot our sins or our name.

Throughout the centuries those who believe in Jesus have been looking for His Second Coming and something called the Great Tribulation. Now here is the **big question**: Will some be raptured out of the Earth to escape the dreaded Tribulation or will everyone go through it, including the saints? A great controversy shadows this debated life and death issue and it comes with two conflicting answers.

Most Christians believe in the “pre-tribulation rapture” as the undisputed truth. Even though slightly different versions co-exist, the majority accepts something like the following: The rapture can occur in any year, on any day, or at any moment. Suddenly, and without warning, Gabriel sounds a trumpet blast, Jesus gathers all the believers (called the Church) who are then caught up out of the earth just before hell breaks loose in the form of a seven-year tribulation. Those who have not accepted Christ, along with the evildoers are doomed to remain on the earth and experience this wrath filled tribulation first hand. At or near it's conclusion Jesus comes again to defeat the surviving evildoers at a battle called Armageddon. In the pre-trib rapture scenario it can be debated this theory clearly suggests the Messiah returns not once but twice: First at the secret rapture and then again at Armageddon!

Other believers, mostly Messianic, say the scripture teaches the Messiah's return will be immediately after tribulation at the sound of the Seventh Trumpet Angel of Revelation (The Last Trump) that begins the “Feast of Trumpets” better known as the Day of the Lord.

Everyone has an opinion, but the thing that really matters is what **God says**. The scripture speaks for itself better than we can. We only need to filter out our previous religious programming so we can clearly hear what the **Word of God really says**. Any comment in **BLUE** is only to bring attention to what the Scripture **actually says**, rather than what we may have been **told it says**. Below are selections from Moses, Jesus Himself, John in Revelation, and Paul.

WHAT MOSES WRITES

We begin with Moses as he records in the following verse in the Torah. He is addressing all Israel who has journeyed the last forty years (grafted or not), and a future generation yet to come. Obviously Moses says there will be those living in the latter days that will experience tribulation, but who?

Deuteronomy 4:3-31 When thou art in tribulation, and all these things are come upon thee, [even] in the latter days, (The last generation) if thou turn to the LORD thy God, and shalt be obedient unto his voice; (For the LORD thy God [is] a merciful God;) he will not forsake thee, neither destroy thee, nor forget the covenant of thy fathers which he sware unto them. (This document obviously pre-dates the so-called “church fathers.” The covenant God swore to remember was with the fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God cannot lie; therefore the church cannot take Israel's place.)

The next section contains the words of our Lord Himself as He expounds very plainly about this time of trouble. If anyone knows the who, what, and when, He does.

WHAT JESUS SAYS

Jesus Himself gives the Parable of the Harvest; it is about the end times. As you read the parable and comments, look for clues of the pre-tribulation rapture.

Matthew 13:24-30 Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed (children of the kingdom) in his field; (world, creation) But while men slept, his enemy (Satan) came and sowed tares (evil seed) among the wheat (good seed), and went his way. But when the blade (the first fruits from creation, the beginning) was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. (Evil seed that was sown after God had planted the good seed.) So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this (Satan). The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them (The tares) up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them (the wheat is NOT to be disturbed). Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares and bind them in bundles to burn them: (The Word of God says, the evil are gathered FIRST, not one single good seed has been up rooted or gathered AT ANY TIME. The righteous were not gathered until after the tares were cast into the fire; then comes the wheat.) but gather the wheat into my barn.

There is NOT one hint of good seed being taken at any time until after the evil are taken and cast into the fire! Jesus puts all the good seed and all the evil seed at the same place and at the same time. No pre-trib rapture was taught here and the righteous (good seed) was not removed. It was the tares that were removed first and burned. Here is the second witness to the Parable of the Harvest.

Matthew 13:41-42 The Son of man shall send forth his angels, and they shall gather out of his kingdom all things that offend, and them which do iniquity; (Notice His Kingdom is already here. It takes 3 things to make His kingdom: 1. The King, 2. The

King's Subjects, and 3. The Land. Now, if the angels must gather out of His kingdom only things that offend, it means there MUST be those present who do not offend.) And shall cast them into a furnace of fire: there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth. (This is a second witness to the parable of the Harvest; the subjects were not raptured out of the land; it is the offenders who are gathered and cast into the fire. The righteous were NOT the ones removed.)

Next, in His own words, Jesus compares His coming as in the days of Noah. Please pay close attention to exactly what Jesus says here; there are no idle words in the Scriptures of Truth:

Matthew 24:37-41 But as the days of Noe [were], (Noah experienced and survived the flood judgment) so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Rather that being raptured, Noah and his sons prepared a place of safety.) For as in the days that were before the flood they (the wicked) were eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage, until the day that Noe entered into the ark, (The place of safety.), And KNEW NOT until the flood came, and took them (the wicked) all away; (Notice that Noah was in the ark SEVEN full DAYS before the rain started and the Messiah said "THEY" (the wicked) "KNEW NOT" (understood not) "UNTIL THE FLOOD CAME" and took them all away. Jesus did NOT mention one syllable about any repenting during those seven days; but on the contrary, Jesus said the wicked had NO Understanding until the flood (judgment) was already upon them.) so shall also the coming of the Son of man be. (Jesus then repeated word for word that His coming is like the days of Noah, returning to a wicked generation who will not understand even up unto the Day of the Lord (judgment). Think about it, if the wicked of our generation were to understand or repent, would the nations still gather at Jezreel? No.) Then shall two be in the field; the one shall be taken, and the other left. (This is the major quote used by the pre-tribulation rapture theorists and they've got it backward. Who was taken and who was left in Noah's day? The evil ones / tares were taken. Noah was left! The righteous were the ones who were left!) Two [women shall be] grinding at the mill; the one shall be taken, and the other left. (Proverbs 10:30, says, "the righteous will never be removed." So who was removed? The evil ones, the tares, Noah dwelt safely in the ark that he and his sons prepared.

We find more selections given by Jesus that pertain directly to the Great Tribulation and His Second Coming.

Matthew 24: 13-21 But he that shall endure unto the end, (end of tribulation) the same shall be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come. (Jesus goes straight from the Gospel preached, to the tribulation, continuing immediately to Jesus's introduction of an abomination that occurs. No rapture even mentioned here.), When ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, (This is the abomination that happens in the midst of the seven years (Daniel Chap.9), which triggers the last 42 months called

the Great Tribulation. Jesus says WHEN WE see it; not IF we see it; NO IDLE WORDS.) stand in the holy place (the temple mount), (whoso readeth, let him understand;) Then let them which be in Judaea flee into the mountains: But pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, neither on the sabbath day; For THEN shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. (The Great Tribulation starts HERE in the midst of the 7 years, and again, there has been absolutely NO mention or even a hint of any form of rapture, only fleeing.)

Now we will look at other selections where Jesus is telling us that His coming is immediately after tribulation. There can only be ONE Second Coming and He has never mentioned returning before tribulation at any time in any verse.

Matthew 24:29 -30 Immediately after the tribulation of those days (The days of Tribulation are now OVER, every word following this point is unmistakably POST-TRIB.) shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: And then (after tribulation) shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then (after tribulation) shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. (There can only be ONE SECOND COMING. Jesus says it Himself: after tribulation)

Mark 13:11-23 But when they shall lead [you], and deliver you up (in tribulation), take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost. (It is written that Holy men of old spoke as they were moved by the Holy Ghost. If the Holy Ghost speaks through someone, they are certainly one of Jesus's. Why wasn't he raptured? Answer: NO pre-trib rapture.) Now the brother shall betray the brother to death, and the father the son; and children shall rise up against [their] parents, and shall cause them to be put to death. And ye shall be hated of all [men] for my name's sake: (Here is someone who is on the earth during tribulation that is hated because of his relationship with the Messiah. Why wasn't he raptured? Answer: NO pre-trib rapture) but he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. (The end of tribulation) But when ye shall see the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing where it ought not (This same person who is hated for his relationship with the Messiah sees the abomination in the midst of the Seven Year Tribulation. Why wasn't he raptured? Answer: NO pre-trib rapture.) (let him that readeth understand,) then let them that be in Judaea flee to the mountains: And let him that is on the housetop not go down into the house, neither enter [therein], to take any thing out of his house: And let him that is in the field not turn back again for to take up his garment. But woe to them that are with child, and to them that give suck in those days! And pray ye that your flight be not in the winter. (If you are fleeing you are still here) For [in] those days shall be affliction (tribulation), such as was not from the beginning of the creation which God created unto this time, neither shall be. And except that the Lord had shortened those days, no flesh

should be saved: **but for the elect's sake** whom he hath chosen, he hath shortened the days. (According to the Lord Himself, we see here that the elect are still on the earth. If they are, rest assured all the other saints are as well.), **And then if any man shall say to you, Lo, here [is] Christ; or, lo, [he is] there; believe [him] not:** (Think about it, in the pre-trib scenario, Jesus has already come and gone with all the raptured saints, all that's left on the earth are the evil ones. Then why would anybody be looking for Christ who has obviously already come and gone?) For false Christs and false prophets shall rise, and shall show signs and wonders, to seduce, if [it were] possible, **even the elect.** (Notice again that the elect, God's people are still here) But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. (Jesus has warned us)

John 17:15-16 **I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, (Is this not the same as to say: I pray that they stay in the world?) but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.**
(Cont next month)

End Times

It is common knowledge that modern technology is migrating toward a cashless world. News reports are being given regularly on a computer chip that will eliminate cash and credit cards all together. It is also common knowledge in tribulation buying and selling cannot be done without the Mark of the Beast, but there is a catch, if you have the Mark, you are doomed to eternal damnation.

If a religious leader told you, **“Its OK to take a computer chip implant”** saying, **“it can't be the Mark of the Beast because we haven't been raptured yet,”** what would you do? If there is **not** a pre-tribulation rapture, the issue of an implanted chip in your hand or forehead becomes an immediate life and death situation that could destroy you and your family. It is plain and simple; **whoever takes the Mark of the Beast is cast into Hell.** You will have doomed yourself and anyone else in your family that has taken it with you, or anyone that you have caused to take it. Would you want someone making those kinds of choices for you? It is your soul and your loved ones that are at stake. Let's all read and learn for ourselves. The truth is there right before our eyes.

Hosea 4:6 **“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge”**

5 COVENANTS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT

NOAHIC

GENESIS 9:11

“I establish my covenant with you, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of the flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth”

ABRAHAMIC

GEN 12:1-3

“I will make you a great nation; I will bless you and make your name great; and you shall be a blessing ... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.”

MOSAIC

EXODUS 19:5-6

“Now therefore, if you will indeed obey My voice and keep My covenant, then you shall be a special treasure to Me above all people; for all the earth is Mine. And you shall be to Me a kingdom of priests and a holy nation”

DAVIDIC

2 SAMUEL 7:12-17

“... your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.”

NEW

JEREMIAH 31:31-34

“Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah ...”



#76

Jesus the Messiah



- HALLOWED
- HOLY
- JESUS
- KING (of Kings)
- LEADER
- LIBERATOR
- MASTER
- MESSIAH
- OMEGA
- (The) ONE
- PEACE
- PRINCE
- RABBI
- REDEEMER
- SACRED
- SALVATION
- SANCTIFIED
- SAVIOR
- (On His) SHOULDERS
- SINS (of the world)
- SON (of God)
- SPIRIT
- SUFFERED (for us)
- (The) WAY
- WONDERFUL
- (The) WORD

- ALPHA
- BENEFACITOR
- BLESSED
- CHRIST
- COMPANION
- COUNCILOR

- DELIVERER
- DIED (for us)
- DIVINE
- FATHER
- FRIEND
- GOD

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