

BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE

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Matthew 24:37–39; 2 Timothy 3:1–5; Luke 17:28–30; Hebrews 9:27; Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21

We are living in dangerous times. The world is busy, noisy, and spiritually blind. People are planning, spending, building, laughing, and drifting, while eternity is closing in.

Jesus said the last days would be like Noah's day and Lot's Day. Paul said perilous times would come. Hebrews says death is followed by judgment. The issue is not whether the warning is true. The issue is whether we will hear it before it is too late.

1. Dangerous Days

Paul said the last days would be "*perilous*." That means dangerous, difficult, and spiritually toxic. Look around: pride is praised, truth is mocked, sin is normalized, and God is pushed aside. Men love self more than holiness, pleasure more than truth, and appearance more than power.

This is a generation with a full schedule and an empty soul. They have devices in their hands but darkness in their hearts.

Do not mistake noise for life. Do not confuse religion with repentance. Do not assume that because the world is stable on the outside, it is safe on the inside.

Are you being shaped by Scripture or by the spirit of the age?

2. Noah's Warning

Jesus said His coming would be like the days of Noah. People were eating, drinking, marrying, and going on with life right up until the flood came. The sin was not normal activity. The sin was indifference. They ignored the warning until it was too late.

Noah preached while building the ark. The flood did not come without notice. The world had a witness, but it would not listen.

It is like a man asleep in a house filled with smoke, thinking the warmth means safety. By the time he wakes, the fire has already spread.

The lesson is simple: ordinary life can hide eternal danger. Business, pleasure, and routine are poor saviors.

If Christ came today, would you be ready, or merely busy?

3. Lot's Example

Jesus also pointed to Lot's Day. Sodom looked normal on the surface—people were buying, selling, planting, and building. But beneath that normal life was corruption, rebellion, and moral collapse. Then judgment fell.

Lot is a warning to those who live too close to sin. He was pulled out of Sodom, but Sodom left its mark on him. That is what sin does: it stains the soul.

Sin is like smoke. You may not stand in the fire, but if you stay near it, you will still smell like it.

Do not toy with sin and expect to remain clean. Do not stay near what God has told you to flee.

Are you standing in a place God warned you not to stand?

4. Christ's Cross

Here is the hope of the sinner: Jesus Christ died in our place. He bore the judgment we deserved. He was made sin for us, though He knew no sin, so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

The cross is not a decoration. It is not religious jewelry. It is the place where mercy and justice met. The Son of God was crushed so rebels could be forgiven.

John Stott said, *"The essence of sin is man substituting himself for God, while the essence of salvation is God substituting Himself for man."*

Stop trusting yourself. Start trusting Christ. If Jesus had to die for your sin, then your sin is far worse than you think and His love far greater than you imagined.

Will you stand under the cross as a sinner in need of mercy, or reject the only remedy God has provided?

5. Urgent Response

The Bible is clear: *"It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."* There are only two outcomes after this life: heaven or hell. There is no third road, no neutral ground, no second chance after death.

That is why the gospel demands a response now. *"Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation."* Delay is dangerous. Procrastination is deadly.

The gospel is like a lifeboat beside a sinking ship. It is not enough to admire the boat. You must get in it.

Do not wait for a better moment. There may not be one. Youth does not protect you. Strength does not protect you. Success does not protect you.

Challenge: What will you do with Jesus Christ today?

Closing: The Gospel Call

God is holy, and man is sinful. That is the problem. Christ is the answer. He lived the life we could not live, died the death we deserved, and rose again to save all who repent and believe.

If you turn from your sin and trust Christ, you will be forgiven, made new, and saved forever. If you reject Him, you remain under judgment.

So, hear the warning and hear the mercy: before it's too late, come to Christ.