

## Living in the Last Days

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### Sermon Synopsis

Set against the backdrop of beautiful Wawel Castle overlooking the Vistula River in Krakow, Poland, Dr. Billy Wilson shares about living in the last days. Drawing from Scriptures such as 1 John 2:18 and 2 Timothy 3:1-5, he unpacks the biblical definition of the last days—not as distant future events, but as the era in which we presently live. These times are described as both terrible and terrific; moments marked by chaos and moral decay yet also filled with unprecedented opportunity for God's favor and global evangelization. Emphasizing historical and modern-day contexts, Dr. Wilson alerts believers to the emerging one world government, one world economy, and one world religion, urging them to prepare for these realities with spiritual readiness and clarity.

Dr. Wilson outlines five essential qualities necessary for successful living in these challenging times. First, a counterculture mindset—believers must reject the dishonor, pride, and confusion endemic in today's culture and instead be transformed by the renewing of their minds (Romans 12:2). Second, spiritual discernment is crucial to navigate the rampant deception and heresy prevalent in these days. True discernment flows from a deep knowledge of Scripture and the Spirit, distinguishing truth from error without suspicion, but with wisdom (Hebrews 5:14). Third, endurance and the capacity to bear pain are vital, for persecution and affliction are inevitable; believers must hold firm to the promise in Mark 13:13 that those who endure until the end will be saved. Fourth, watchfulness and alertness safeguard the believer's soul, keeping hearts awake and ready for Christ's sudden return, as urged in Luke 17:26-30.

Finally, Dr. Wilson calls for the embrace of authentic power—the infilling and empowerment of the Holy Spirit promised by God in Acts 2:17. Rejecting superficial religion that offers form without fire, believers are called to experience the transforming energy of the Spirit daily. This power provides strength to overcome temptation, endure trials, and boldly witness in a world

drifting into darkness. Through powerful testimony, including the example of Oral Roberts University students in fervent worship and prayer, the message is clear: only Spirit-empowered believers can navigate these last days victoriously.

Throughout the sermon, the intertwining of biblical insight with practical application is palpable. The teaching speaks directly into the lives of Christians, encouraging them to internalize God's Word, cultivate spiritual resilience, and keep a steadfast gaze upon Jesus. Candera Lomax's testimony as an educator highlights the healing and transformative power of Jesus available to all, especially for those wounded in heart and mind. This holistic approach addresses not only external challenges but also inner restoration, calling believers to bring their 'inner child' to Jesus for healing and renewal.

In summation, this stirring sermon from Krakow serves as both a call to courage and a manual for triumph in these last days. It challenges Christians to reject cultural conformity, sharpen their discernment, persevere through hardship, remain watchful for Christ's return, and embrace the Holy Spirit's power. Dr. Wilson's passionate delivery coupled with biblical authority leaves believers equipped and inspired to live out their faith boldly amid the world's escalating darkness, confidently awaiting the glorious return of Jesus Christ.

## Sermon Highlights

- We are living in the last days as described in Scripture, marked by great challenges and also glorious times of God's favor and evangelization (1 John 2:18; 2 Timothy 3:1-5).
- To live successfully in these times, Christians need a counterculture mindset that rejects the sinful patterns of the world and is transformed by the renewing of the mind (Romans 12:2).
- Spiritual discernment is essential to recognize the rampant deception around us, grounded in deep knowledge of Scripture and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit (Hebrews 5:14).
- Endurance and the capacity to bear pain are required because believers will face persecution and trials, but those who endure to the end will be saved (Mark 13:13; Jeremiah 12:5).
- We must maintain watchfulness and alertness for the return of Jesus Christ, living ready and prayerful so we are not caught unaware (Luke 21:36).
- Most importantly, authentic power through the Holy Spirit is necessary to overcome, endure, and live victorious in these last days—avoiding superficial religion and walking in vibrant relationship with God (Acts 2:17; Jude 1:18-21).

## Scripture Verses

### 1 John 2:18

Dear children, this is the last hour; and as you have heard that the antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come. This is how we know it is the last hour.

### 2 Timothy 3:1-5

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people.

### Romans 12:2

Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will.

### Hebrews 5:14

But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.

### Mark 13:13

You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved.

### Jeremiah 12:5

If you have raced with men on foot and they have worn you out, how can you compete with horses? If you stumble in safe country, how will you manage in the thickets by the Jordan?

### Mark 13:33-37

"Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come. It's like a man going away: He leaves his house and puts his servants in charge, each with their assigned task, and tells the one at the door to keep watch. Therefore keep watch because you do not know when the owner of the house will come back—whether in the evening, or at midnight, or when the rooster crows, or at dawn. If he comes suddenly, do not let him find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to everyone: 'Watch!'"

### Luke 17:26-30

Just as it was in the days of Noah, so also will it be in the days of the Son of Man. People were eating, drinking, marrying and being given in marriage up to the day Noah entered the ark. Then the flood came and destroyed them all. It was the same in the days of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But the day Lot left Sodom, fire and sulfur rained down from heaven and destroyed them all. It will be just like this on the day the Son of Man is revealed.

### Luke 21:34-36

Be careful, or your hearts will be weighed down with carousing, drunkenness and the anxieties of life, and that day will close on you suddenly like a trap. For it will come on all

those who live on the face of the whole earth. Be always on the watch, and pray that you may be able to escape all that is about to happen, and that you may be able to stand before the Son of Man.

#### Acts 2:17

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy, your young men will see visions, your old men will dream dreams."

#### Jude 1:18-21

They said to you, 'In the last times there will be scoffers who will follow their own ungodly desires.' These are the people who divide you, who follow mere natural instincts and do not have the Spirit. But you, dear friends, by building yourselves up in your most holy faith and praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in God's love as you wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring you to eternal life.

## Quotes

- "They that endure unto the end, the same shall be saved." - Jesus
- "We should be living different than that. We should be counterculture in how we approach life in the 21st century." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Discernment is not suspicion. In fact, God teaches us to love everyone and believe the best in everyone." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "Most importantly, I believe you need authentic power... We were made to realize and experience the authentic energy and power of God in our lives every day by the Holy Spirit." - Dr. Billy Wilson
- "God is made distant and cold by their religious activity so that there is no power in their Christianity. We were not made to live this way as believers." - Dr. Billy Wilson

# Bible Study

## Objectives

- Understand the characteristics of the last days as described in Scripture.
- Identify the five key attributes needed to live successfully in the last days.
- Recognize the importance of spiritual discernment and endurance in challenging times.
- Embrace the power of the Holy Spirit to live authentically and victoriously.
- Apply biblical principles to navigate cultural challenges and remain watchful for Christ's return.

## Reading and Reflections

- 1 John 2:18 – A reminder that we are indeed living in the last days and the presence of many enemies of Christ is a sure sign of this era.
- 2 Timothy 3:1-5 – A sobering description of the moral decay and challenges that characterize these times.
- Mark 13:13 – The call to endure persecution and affliction, promising salvation to those who persevere.
- Luke 17:26-30 – Comparing the last days to Noah's and Lot's times, emphasizing sudden judgment and the need for watchfulness.
- Acts 2:17 – The promise of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit empowering believers in the last days.
- Jude 1:18-21 – Encouragement to build up faith and pray in the Spirit while remaining in God's love.

## Key Observations

- The 'last days' span the entire Christian era but intensify as we approach Christ's return.
- Cultural values today contrast sharply with godly living, demanding a countercultural mindset.
- Spiritual discernment is crucial to navigate rampant deception, false teachings, and worldly distractions.
- Endurance is not optional; suffering and trials will test our faith, yet perseverance leads to salvation.
- Being watchful and alert spiritually keeps us prepared for the unpredictable return of Jesus.
- Authentic power comes from reliance on the Holy Spirit, not mere religious formality or external rituals.
- Healing and restoration, even for inner hurts and childhood traumas, flow through surrendering to Jesus.

## Personal Reflections

- Reflect on how my mindset aligns with worldly values versus the renewing of my mind in Christ.
- Am I discerning truth or being swayed by cultural deception and unbiblical teachings?
- In what ways have I demonstrated endurance during trials, and how can I strengthen this capacity?
- Do I maintain spiritual watchfulness, praying and living expectantly for Christ's return?
- Am I living by the authentic power of the Holy Spirit daily, or relying on empty rituals?
- How have I experienced Jesus' healing in my life, and am I extending that grace to others?
- What distractions or pleasures might be competing with Jesus as my 'one thing'?

## Lessons for Daily Life

- Be intentional about renewing your mind with God's Word to resist conformity to worldly culture.
- Cultivate spiritual discernment through regular Bible study and sensitivity to the Holy Spirit's guidance.
- Prepare your heart to endure trials with faith, knowing perseverance is rewarded by Christ.
- Practice constant watchfulness by living each day in readiness for Jesus' return, avoiding complacency.
- Seek authentic relationship with God through the power of the Holy Spirit, not just religious duties.
- Address personal wounds by bringing your inner child to Jesus for healing and restoration.
- Let Jesus be your singular focus amid life's distractions, declaring 'Give me Jesus.'

## Practical Applications

- Set aside daily time for prayer and Bible reading to renew your mind against cultural pressures.
- Develop the habit of discerning teachings and news through Scripture, testing for truth and error.
- Join or create support groups to encourage each other in enduring faith during challenges.
- Incorporate reminders throughout your day (alarms, notes, scripture cards) to stay spiritually alert.
- Invite the Holy Spirit's power continuously by praying for His filling and guidance.
- If you carry emotional or spiritual wounds, seek prayer ministry or Christian counseling to find healing.
- Regularly sing or meditate on worship songs like 'Give Me Jesus' to center your heart on Christ.

## Challenges for the Week

- Identify one area where your mindset aligns too closely with worldly values and commit to renewing it.
- Practice discerning truth by verifying one teaching or news event against Scripture.
- Commit to endurance by not giving up on a prayer, relationship, or ministry challenge causing frustration.
- Stay alert by waking up or going to bed with a prayer of preparedness for Jesus' return.
- Invite the Holy Spirit's power afresh each day, asking specifically for boldness, peace, or guidance.
- Bring to Jesus in prayer any unresolved inner hurts or childhood wounds.
- Declare daily 'You are my one thing, Lord' to combat distractions and draw closer to Christ.

## Further Study

- Study the life and teachings of Noah and Lot as biblical parallels of living in the last days (Genesis 6-9; Genesis 19).
- Explore the qualities listed in 2 Timothy 3:1-5 and reflect on their manifestation in today's society.
- Delve deeper into the fruits and gifts of the Holy Spirit for empowerment in challenging times (Galatians 5:22-26; 1 Corinthians 12).
- Investigate the biblical concept of spiritual discernment and its practical outworking (Hebrews 5:14; 1 Corinthians 2:14).
- Read the book of Revelation to understand the prophetic overview of the last days and Christ's return.
- Study Jeremiah 12:5 and Mark 13 on endurance and watchfulness during trials.
- Research Christian counseling and inner healing ministries to understand how Jesus heals wounds of the heart.

## Closing Prayer

Heavenly Father, in these last days, we come before You with humble hearts, asking for Your grace to live successfully amid trials and challenges. Renew our minds so that we refuse to be conformed to this world but are transformed by Your truth. Grant us spiritual discernment to navigate deception and steadfast endurance to persevere when hardships come. Awaken us to be ever watchful and prepared, keeping our eyes fixed on Jesus' return. Fill us anew with the power of Your Holy Spirit, that we may live authentically and boldly represent Your kingdom. Heal every hidden wound and restore what has been broken in our hearts. Let Jesus be our one and only desire, our strength, and our refuge. We ask this in the mighty name of Jesus Christ, Amen.

# Daily Devotionals

## Day 1

### Scripture Verse

2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV): "But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God—having a form of godliness, but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people."

### Reflection

In the midst of the chaos and moral confusion so prevalent in our world today, the Apostle Paul's words to Timothy ring with undeniable truth. We live in what Scripture calls the last days—times marked by self-centeredness, pride, and a denial of God's power. These verses paint a sobering picture of society's direction, yet they also serve as a clear call to us as believers. We are urged not to be swept away by these currents but to live counterculturally.

Consider the culture around us—a world that shouts messages of instant gratification, fame, and financial success. Social media bombards us daily with pride and comparison, while many communities fracture under the weight of divisions and confusion about identity and purpose. It's easy to feel overwhelmed or complicit, but Scripture calls us to a different standard—a renewed mind and a heart anchored in God's truth.

Think about a story of a family where the parents chose to cultivate humility, love, and forgiveness amid a community obsessed with status and material wealth. They trained their children not in the ways of the world, but in the ways of Christ—living generously, speaking kindly, and loving unconditionally. These children grew up embodying the fruit of the Spirit, a stark contrast to the trends around them. This counterculture mindset is not about isolation but transformation. Romans 12:2 tells us, "Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind." It challenges us to evaluate what influences we allow to shape us.

As you reflect today, ask yourself: Am I living according to the values of the kingdoms of this world or God's kingdom? When faced with the cultural pressures of pride or selfishness, do I choose love, humility, and faithfulness? Living successfully in the last days starts with a disciplined mind and a heart fixed on Jesus. This path is narrow but leads to life and peace amidst the whirlwind around us.

### Prayer

Lord, renew my mind and transform my heart so I will not be conformed to this world but live boldly for You. Help me to walk in Your truth and love as a witness in these last days. Amen.

## Day 2

### Scripture Verse

Hebrews 5:14 (NIV): "But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil."

### Reflection

Discernment—knowing what is good and evil, truth and deception—is the lifeline for believers navigating the last days. The flood of misinformation and heretical teachings can easily drown the unsuspecting. Yet, the Bible describes discernment not as suspicion or paranoia but as spiritual maturity cultivated through training and reliance on the Holy Spirit. Imagine a captain steering a ship through turbulent waters filled with hidden reefs and storms. Without a keen eye, the ship risks destruction. Like that captain, we must cultivate spiritual eyes that can see beyond surface appearances and recognize the true heart of any teaching or circumstance. It's not always easy; many deceptions are disguised as truth, comfortable and appealing, like counterfeit money that looks genuine until examined carefully.

In today's world, the lure of 'feel-good' messages or distorted gospel versions can mislead even the faithful. Remember the parable of the wheat and the weeds (Matthew 13:24-30)? Both grow side by side until the harvest. We live in a time of harvest, but also in a time when weeds grow rampant. Discernment helps us know when to warn, when to avoid, and how to love wisely. Discernment requires two things: a deep knowledge of God's Word and a close relationship with the Holy Spirit. It is by meditating on Scripture daily, prayerfully seeking God, and humbly submitting to His Spirit's guidance that we grow into mature believers who can separate truth from error.

This maturity is not innate but earned through diligence and dependence on God. Reflect on the influences in your life—do you filter them through the lens of Scripture? Are you growing in your ability to discern the good from the evil? How does your spiritual training influence your responses to challenging situations, conflicting teachings, or cultural pressures? The challenge today is to commit anew to cultivating a spirit of wisdom, allowing God to sharpen your mind and heart for the days ahead.

### Prayer

Heavenly Father, grant me the gift of spiritual discernment. Help me to know Your truth deeply and to recognize deception so I may walk faithfully and wisely in these days. Amen.

## Day 3

### Scripture Verse

Mark 13:13 (NIV): "You will be hated by everyone because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved."

### Reflection

Endurance is the quiet call of those who follow Christ in the last days. Jesus' words remind us that hardship, rejection, and tribulation are not exceptions but realities for believers. Yet, within this sobering truth, there is a profound promise—those who stand firm to the end will be saved. Think of athletes in a long-distance race: it's not the sprinter but the steadfast runner who wins the marathon. The journey includes fatigue, pain, doubts, and moments when giving up seems easier.

The Christian life in these perilous times is no different. The enemy comes to wear us down through trials, distractions, and despair. However, God's strength is made perfect in our weakness (2 Corinthians 12:9). Consider the story of a single mother who, despite losing much in life, held on to her faith amid mounting pressures. Her coworkers and neighbors saw her calm and hope in crises that would break many. When asked, she spoke beautifully of Jesus as her anchor. Her endurance wasn't silent—it was powerfully witnessed through her testimonies, acts of kindness, and unwavering hope. Endurance in the last days is built on a foundation of prayer, Scripture, and community. Jeremiah's challenging words in Jeremiah 12:5 remind us of the increased difficulties ahead, but they also invite us to strengthen ourselves for the race.

Spiritually endurance means leaning on God daily, trusting His plan even when the road is rough. Ask yourself today: How am I preparing for the spiritual race? Do I have the resilience to stand firm when opposition rises? What spiritual disciplines, relationships, and practices help sustain my endurance? Remember, endurance is not passive; it's active trust, a battle cry of faith that refuses to quit or lose hope. Let us press on with joy, knowing that perseverance produces maturity and at last, the crown of life (James 1:12). Jesus' promise is clear—he who endures to the end will be saved. This is our hope, our shield, and our victory.

### Prayer

Lord Jesus, strengthen my heart to endure trials and opposition. Help me to stand firm in faith, holding fast to Your promises until You return. Amen.

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