

Responsibility

Commentary for May 1, 2011 — Your Responsibility as a Leader

The presentation by Dr. Martin for May 2011 is "How to Give to God," with additional information in the "[May 2011 Newsletter](#)" which I encourage you to read before you study Dr. Martin's article.

Consider all the evils of nature and man that are occurring around the world at this present time. How does one keep going without being depressed? How can one continue with everyday life? In Matthew 24:3–8 Jesus told His disciples privately when certain events would occur, when would be the sign of His coming, and the end of the age. He told of terrible events that would multiply around the world. At the end of His descriptions he said something startling: **"All these are the beginning of sorrows"** (Matthew 24:8). Not the end, but **"the beginning."**

We are not at that time — yet. We have not seen anything compared to the evils that will come. We are not yet at the time of the end. Let no one tell you otherwise.

You have knowledge and understanding that others do not have. You are not alive now knowing the truths of God for yourself alone. Yes, you have been called at this time to know God's truth about the Gospel and God's plan of salvation. You will be saved, and so will all your friends, relatives, acquaintances, along with everyone else in the world. God's Word states that plainly and clearly. You should be a bulwark of strength while everyone else is losing their composure, living with the increasing stress of their fears. Take counsel from the apostle Paul (from the Concordant Version, then compare it with the King James Version):

"Do not worry about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God, and the peace of God, that is superior to every frame of mind, shall be garrisoning your hearts and your apprehensions in Christ Jesus.

For the rest, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is grave, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is agreeable, whatever is renowned — if there is any virtue, and if any applause, be taking these into account.

What you learned also, and accepted and hear and perceived in me, these be putting into practice, and the God of peace will be with you.

• *Philippians 4:6–9*

God gives peace to those who think about the good things of life. The Philippian *ekklesia* learned those things from Paul and you have learned them from Paul's writings. Do as God says to do, let God know your requests (Philippians 4:6–7). If you do not do as God says, you may live in fear of the next disaster.

The reality of world conditions is that not one of you reading this (unless you are very, very young) will be alive when Christ returns. I will die, and so will all of you. Accept that fact. (If you do not like me saying this, prove to me from Scripture [and not just your opinion], why

the time of the end will come soon.) Paul tells us to **“think on these things”** (Philippians 4:8, KJV) whenever we worry. This is a command in Greek, an imperative, not a suggestion.

Like it or not God has chosen you to be a leader. You have been chosen to learn the truths of God now, before others in the world. Act like a leader. It is your duty as a leader within your circumstances to help people help themselves, give them a nudge, a kind word. Help them to have hope, even hope beyond death if circumstances come to that. Be ready always, as Peter says, to answer people about the hope within you (1 Peter 3:15). How do you prepare for such situations? First you think on the things that the apostle Paul says to think on. Furthermore, study to show yourself approved of God to rightly divide the word of truth correctly and without recourse to teachers (2 Timothy 2:15) so you can tell others the truths of God.

This past week was the wedding of Prince William and Catherine Middleton in England. By virtue of her marriage to the second in line to the throne of England, Catherine became a princess of British royalty. My wife and I were discussing this event and I said something about women anticipating marriage. My wife looked at me and said wisely, “We are all princesses.” Indeed, all women think of themselves as princesses at some time in their lives (and so they should!), most often when they get married. How true! How excellent.

The reality of you being royalty is truer than any of us can imagine, and far more important than Prince William and now Duchess (and later Princess and Queen) Catherine. You are a child of God, a true prince or princess of God the Father Almighty. Your station as royalty is of far greater importance and significance than any earthly royalty, whatever the nation. You are waiting for your crown and to be seated on the throne with Christ Jesus next to God the Father in heaven, which shall occur after your resurrection from the dead in Christ. Dr. Martin says more about this in his presentation.

As a prince or princess of God (and you should acknowledge your legal standing before God), you have a responsibility to act wisely in times of stress, devastation, and even horror. Royalty is expected to remain calm, cool, and to lead. God also expects that of us. Learn, study, train yourself to stay positive if and whenever the world seems to be collapsing around you. And be assured, as Jesus said in Matthew 24:3–8, the bad times for the world have not even begun; things are not collapsing yet. When the worst of the sorrows occur (after Matthew 24:3–8) it will be God’s doing as He punishes the world in the day of His wrath.¹

After all you and I know (or should know!) the end of things — it is all good, for us and all mankind. All alive now will certainly be dead before Christ returns, but all will be made alive. You and all other believers will inherit the Kingdom of God. Eventually in the fullness of time all mankind will be saved, and Christ shall return the Kingdom and all power and all authority to God the Father who gave it to Him, **“that God may be all in all”** (1 Corinthians 15:22–28).

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¹ See Isaiah 13:6, 9, 13; Jeremiah 46:10; Ezekiel 7:19, 38:18; Zephaniah 1:15–18; Romans 2:5–6; Revelation 6:17 about this day in Israel and around the world. The destruction will be God’s wrath upon the world, yet He will protect His own children. See Dr. Martin’s article [“The Place of Safety.”](#)