

## Matthew 24:23-28 A Warning About Miracle Working Deceivers

Introduction: Jesus had given His disciples ten signs to watch for. These signs would indicate to them the nearness of the destruction of the temple. To us they indicate the nearness of the coming of Christ. He warned them also of the Great Tribulation. In this text He elaborates on two of the signs.

### I. Elaboration on the false Christs and false prophets.

- A. The mention of false Christs and false prophets (verse 23) was not new information.
- B. The mention of their miracle working is new information, verse 24.
- C. The purpose of the miracles is to persuade men that they are of God.
  - 1. But they are not of God. Their message is not of God: their power to perform miracles is not of God.
  - 2. They deceive many, verse 24b.

### II. The miraculous sign gifts done away.

- A. In the early apostolic days, before the completion of the Bible the Holy Spirit gave certain sign gifts to certain people.
  - 1. These gifts included the speaking in tongues; healing the sick, raising the dead and other miracles; knowing things supernaturally and receiving revelations.
  - 2. These were for the purpose of giving new revelations from God and confirming these revelation, Mark 16:20.
- B. Paul said that these signs would be done away.
  - 1. In I Corinthians 12:1 Paul began to discuss spiritual gifts.
  - 2. In I Corinthians 13:8 Paul said that the gift of prophecy and the gift of tongues would stop.
  - 3. All the special sign gifts would cease at the same time.
  - 4. Paul tells when they would cease, I Corinthians 13:8-10.
  - 5. Three special gifts remain, but they are not miraculous gifts, I Corinthians 13:13.

### III. The coming of the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

- A. The Anti-Christ will claim to be Deity God, II Thessalonians 2:1-4, 8-10.
- B. The False Prophet will support the claim of the Anti-Christ, Revelations 13:11-15.
- C. The growing number of false Christs and miracle working false prophets are helping to prepare the thinking of the world to receive the Anti-Christ and the False Prophet.

### IV. No excuse for the saved to be deceived.

- A. Jesus warned us in advance, Matthew 24:25.
- B. Paul warned us in advance, II Thessalonians 2:5.
- C. When Jesus does return everybody will know for sure that He has returned, Matthew 24:26-27.

Conclusion:

- 1. Believe the Bible miracles, but do not be deceived by the miracle workers of our day. (Not by the healing, the tongues, not by any of it.)
- 2. Believe the Bible which has been confirmed by the miracles that were from God.
- 3. Believe in the Christ who has come and who will come again.
- 4. Be faithful and loyal to Christ.

Preached at Pleasant Hill 9-7-86 A.M.