***Becoming a People of Understanding – Urgency, Not Anxiety***

The study of the end-times is to bring us first and foremost into discovering the beauty of the man, Jesus. When we consider the end-time narrative, we want to discover the glory of Jesus' personality, heart, power, and purpose. His actions at the end of the age expound on who He is.

“Believe Me... or else believe Me for the sake of the works themselves.”  
John 14:11

The condition of the time is perilous.

**Steady Hearts in the Midst of Unprecedented Fear**

“And there will be signs in the sun, in the moon, and in the stars; and on the earth distress of nations, with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men’s hearts failing them from fear and the expectation of those things which are coming on the earth, for the powers of the heavens will be shaken.”   
Luke 21:25-26

“But you, brethren, are not in darkness, so that this Day should overtake you as a thief. You are all sons of light and sons of the day. We are not of the night nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober. For those who sleep, sleep at night, and those who get drunk are drunk at night. But let us who are of the day be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love, and as a helmet the hope of salvation. For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.”  
1 Thessalonians 5:4-10

Fear and anxiety are fueling anger and irrational behaviors, pushing the Western World to a crisis of drug abuse, drunkenness, and increasing violence. Economic shaking, war and military conflict, escalating trouble and multiplied crisis is pressing humanity worldwide. Humanity is being “backed into a corner” as we reap what we have sown in rebellion, carnality, and foolishness.

The immediate problem for the Church is that urgency and sobriety can feel similar enough to fear and anxiety that Christians push back against both to feel a sense of interior calm amid the exterior storm of pressure.

We have not been given a spirit of fear (but we have been given might, power, and a sound mind – 2 Tim. 1:7) but it is critically important to embrace rather than refuse urgency related to our interior life in God as we seek out the Lord in this intense period of time.

Urgency is important because biblical perspective and wisdom pushes us to reset our priorities according to scripture, aligning with the heart of God in the hidden details of our life in the fear of the Lord. Sobriety matters related to the way we understand the importance of the time we live in, refusing to squander the time given to us but choosing to redeem the time (Eph. 5:16) by walking carefully versus foolishly or frivolously.

Jesus instructed on our need to discern the times and seasons more than any other New Testament author (cf. Matthew 16:1-4 and 24:32-44, Luke 19:41-44, and Luke 21:34-36).

The reason that Jesus gave these commands were pastoral in nature. Jesus emphasized an untroubled heart in Matthew 24:6 and John 14:1.

Many will succumb to   
Fear  
Offense  
Lust  
Deception

Let us make sure our hearts are not weighed down with busyness and worldly seduction.