

The Last Trumpet. (Mark 13:32-37)

* Friends, it is good to know what kind of sound will be produced at the last Trumpet, we've learned from apocalyptic literature. That sound, I think, must be very loud because even the dead will hear it and they will arise, (**1Co 15:52**). Some people may say that Trumpet will sound as is made either by horns of a transatlantic liner or an army with the general at the head of it. Actually the Scripture says that the last Trumpet will blast exclusively loud, much louder than any other voices we've ever heard. It would be like the voice of a great multitude, as the voice of many waters, and of mighty thundering. Upon hearing the Trumpet people will be greatly frightened. And on top of hearing there will be a vision of the Son of Man, (**1Th 4:16**), **appearing as** the King of kings, Lord of lords, and as the Judge of the whole world. Friends, this message come to us ahead so that we be able to discern the real sound from false and don't allow this world to deceive us no matter how false sound seems to be naturalized.

* Hoping for and believing in Second Coming of Christ we ask the Lord to save us from false ideas in connection with the time and reason of Christ's coming, (Mar 13:33). We pray, Dear Lord Jesus, sustain our minds and hearts in such a way that we may act the valiant part with you as our Reliance.

We plead you, be our refuge and our shield that we may never quit the field; Descend, defend from all errors and earth's terrors; let your salvation be our constant consolation. Amen

* Today is the final day of the twenty five week marathon that has successfully accomplished in us by virtue of Christ's ministry. During these weeks we have been prepared in understanding God's will, our vocations and the way of life. Saying in truth, today we are prepared to meet the Redeemer if he would be appeared among us at this moment. But because Christ' Second Coming has kept in secret we have to work on it constantly, until the end of one's life or the end of this world, (Mat 24:13; Heb 3:14).

Therefore our task is to be steadfast in such a purpose that demands certain degree of endurance and wisdom. When this world comes across catastrophic events, our readiness for Christ is found in steadfast endurance and faith in Christ Jesus, (Rev 13:10).

* When I thought over the central idea of the postmodern message regarding the end of this world, I found that this message is believed even by nonreligious Americans. They believe that the world will be

destroyed by natural powers as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, or famine, or all kind of crises, or by World War III. In effect these beliefs come out with blowing of trumpets.

From first trumpet we've heard the sound produced by scientists. If take into account the growing appetite of the growing population, they said, then, our planet will be emptied out the life supporting resources in 50 years Therefore we might expect the end around that time, they trumpet. Next, we heard the sound produced by the masters of Arts such as the rock musicians, movie-producers, painters, novelists and so forth. They trumpet about the spectacular imageries of the global cataclysm that thrusts the world into chaos. Next, we've heard the voices of radical politics, economists and military analytics. They blow up arguments in support of apocalyptic expectations. And from the last trumpet we've heard the noise of the false teachers and foretellers. Basing on confessional methodology and logical analysis of temporal remarks the false trumpet about Antichrist, Babylon, the secret code, a Monster and the Doomsday. In effect many people intent upon hearing these trumpets and believed, even by nonreligious Americans. Friends, be not hurry to accept this news as a victory over skepticism and atheism rather be aware of standing for the beliefs the skeptics and atheists preoccupy

* Now in order to settle the point I wish your attention to a certain imagery. It is just this moment when Christ stands on Olivet with the vision of coming destruction upon city of Jerusalem that the French artist, Paul Flandrin, has chosen to portray in his "Christ Mourns over the City." In view of the Lord we see a metropolitan area having nothing in common with the Jerusalem of Caiaphas. The crowded city covers with smoke produced by its industrial objects. The two topmost buildings are dominated above wide-ranging housetop. One, where is the temple of the Living God once stood; and second, where Herod's palace is should have lowered. We can assume there are many people and cars in the city, they move force and back quickly; sometimes slowly, bumper to bumper. Everybody preoccupied with a single emotion - how to earn money. The public is no more accustomed to worship the Living God; there is even left no one sign of old that would be recalled people's memory about the devotional Christian life. There are no more worshipers in the city. Meantime daylight fades; the Saviour still stands motionless above the city; his hands clasped in contemplation and his face reflected lament.

* Friends, could you believe? Just ten years after presentation of “Christ Mourns over the City, the peaceful and fortunate life was turned upside-down. That time many countries, including the US, were rushed to engage in the bloody World War I. You know, it caused a lot of destructions, people’s lives and their cities. But the critical point here is not about fires, explosions, chemical attacks and building collapses; the critical point is about our society that is getting less Christian! Basing on Barry Kosmin’s recent statistics it reveals the rise in the number of Americans who do not identify themselves with any religion over the past two decades. The Nonreligious Americans or “Nones” increased from 8.1 percent of the adult population in 1990 to 15 percent in 2008. At the same time the younger generation in its majority remains nonreligious at all. “Nones” may best be described as skeptics and atheists accepting of human evolution. The report points out that 73 percents of “Nones” came from religious homes, mostly from Catholics and Evangelicals. Therefore our country is getting more secular and the churches are less attended. Think about that.

* As it was saying before the modern apocalyptical message is hopeless even though it was mastered by computer graphics, ingenious designee and other human creativities. And it is still hopeless because it leaves people without hope and faith, because it leaves out the real Maker of disasters behind the screen. Meantime daylight fades; the Maker is standing motionless above the world; his hands clasped in contemplation and his face reflected lament. But unlike the non religious who believe in false trumpets, the faithful hearts abide in peace, watching for the Lord. No matter how much the trouble makers will succeed in destroying this planet in virtual level, they are powerless to destroy God’s work as it is. All American, Russian and Chinese’s missiles taking together cannot destroy God’s plane. Beloved of the Lord, be not afraid! Yes, the end is ahead; and the great tribulations will come, but they will not happen tomorrow or on 21st of December 2012; rather it will be happened when the false will prophecy, *There is peace and security*, (1Th 5:3). Don’t believe this message as well but raise your heads, because your redemption is drawing near, (Luk 21:28).

* Finally we approach the end of the Church Year but it is not the end of all. There are still many enjoyable things ahead which Jesus graciously launches before his little flock in spite of natural

calamities, epidemics or chaos in social structures. Little flock, the calamities are not yours, they belong to the dogs and sorcerers and the sexually immoral and murderers and idolaters, and everyone who loves and practices the destruction of this world, (Rev 22:15). But yours are promises, endurance, optimism, hope, love of God under protection of the Holy Spirit. He who testifies to these things says, "Surely I am coming soon." Amen. Come, Lord Jesus! (Rev 22:20).

Amen