

# ***John Newlin Ministries***

## ***SIGN OF THE TIMES:***

**Stop trusting in man,**

**Who has but a breath in his nostrils.**

**Of what account is he?**

- Isaiah 2:22 (1984 NIV)

We live in a time – and have for decades – where a huge portion of the population have sought help, aid, relief, leadership, and just about any other good thing you can imagine, from the government and other cultural leaders. They have looked to man for their salvation.

This approach has culminated in recent years in America in the very deification of great athletes and movie stars who, while great in their professions, are just that – people who can play a sport exceedingly well or act exceedingly well. Yet younger people especially hang on their every word and seek to be like them.

As far as the government goes, years of ever growing government under both political parties and ever growing entitlement (“aid”) programs has led people to depend more and more on it. But government cannot solve your problems. It is an enormous bureaucracy, which by definition is ponderous, slow, extraordinarily inefficient, and dull. Anyone who has worked with a large organization knows what a bureaucracy is like. Just look at the storms that have hit various areas. It is the people themselves who immediately began working to help those affected, as it should be! The government, FEMA, eventually will get involved, but the people affected surely can’t wait for that. Local helpers and charitable groups are there always immediately.

Or consider your protection. In the history of this country people were to protect themselves. Police have never been able always to protect the citizens. Most victims of crime know that. Police generally come in after a crime to investigate and to capture the perpetrators. There just aren’t enough police to patrol everywhere. I remember years ago when I lived near Houston. The chief of police in that giant city said that very thing to the citizens – we can’t protect you. You have to take care of yourselves.

Somewhere along the way, many people moved from being actively involved in society to becoming spectators in much of life just as they are in professional sports. I remember once

hearing a major athlete speak with derision of those who just come and sit and watch. The real joy and focus of the sport, to him, was in participating, in playing the game. Certainly we can see how this applies to many Christians as well, who basically are just that even in their faith – spectators. Minimally involved, they go once a week to sit and have someone else tell them a few words he has arrived at by study and prayer and reflection. And then they leave.

Americans have stopped playing the game of life, preferring rather for others to take care of all those areas we are not greatly interested in. Americans would rather work in their jobs, have a house, and maybe a couple cars, maybe a boat, focus on their families, watch games and cook out. They just don't want to get involved in dealing with issues of the day, so they have all been left to the government – local and national. And so those governments have evolved, and people have been elected and appointed to high positions who clearly are taking the country in a direction that much of the population does not wish to go. The country is moving to ever great national government and even apparently to a greater union with other world governments. And now the citizens do not know what to do.

Spiritually, we all know what is happening. We are living in the last of the last days, and we are heading toward the return of the Lord and that seven year tribulation period. Part of that period involves a one-world government and a universal (read "false") church. Quite apparently we are well on the way to that time. Recently when Cathy and I were praying about what we should be doing next, the Lord gave us specific direction. And he finished it off by giving Cathy this verse: 1 Peter 4:7:

**The end of all things is near. Therefore be clear minded and self-controlled so that you can pray. (1984 NIV)**

Read that and receive it. And do what it says.

May you all live in the blessings of God always.

*Keep Your Eyes on Jesus!*

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