

THE MAIN THING
JULY 23, 2017

ACTS 1:4-9

1. We know we're living in the last of the last days.
 - A. Explosion of knowledge. **DANIEL 12:4**
 - Transportation – Walk, horse, chariot, boat, train, car, plane, rocket, space age.
 - Communications – Talk, smoke signals, telegraph, telephone, radio, television, e-mail, texting, twitter, facebook; but there was no increase from Adam until the 1800's.
 - B. Birth of nuclear war. **ZECHARIAH 14:12**
 - C. Rebirth of Israel as a nation. **ISAIAH 66:8, MATTHEW 24:32-36**
 - May 14, 1948, Israel became a nation again.
 - D. Re-gathering of Jews in Israel. **ISAIAH 43:5-6**
 - E. Paul's miscellaneous signs. **2 TIMOTHY 3:1-5**
 - F. Solomon's third temple.
 - In 2010 a replica "temple in waiting" was designed. Priestly clothes are made, vessels of the temple collected, 3 six ton cornerstones were consecrated with water from the Pool of Siloam, 95 pound pure gold menorah @2 million dollars was made...
2. Is knowing when Jesus comes again the main thing?
 - A. While Jesus tried to conduct a mission's conference, His disciples tried to turn it into a prophecy conference. Jesus gets them back on track by telling them knowing the times and seasons is not the main thing. The main thing is to be faithful to Him and reach the world with the gospel by the power of the Spirit.
 - B. Nothing has changed. Our duty today is the same. We are to keep the main thing the main thing. We're not to get distracted from the reason we've been left in the world. We are to be salt and light, and fulfill the Great Commission.
 - C. The days of Noah. **MATTHEW 24:37-39**
 - There was no panic, no fear or buying of generators or buckets of survival food. People will be continuing in life as normal, eating, drinking, marrying, burying...
3. The main thing. **LUKE 10:38-42**
 - A. There are many things in life to consider important.
 - Martha thought many things were important, but Jesus said it was Mary who made the main thing the main thing. To Him, it was more important to be taught the Word.
 - Bob Pierce, founder of World Vision was a successful evangelist who saw thousands come to Christ at His crusades in the Far East. He raised millions for the needy. He abandoned his family for the ministry. He preferred to travel the world than return home to his daughter who begged him to do so by phone. He refused, and his daughter Sharon committed suicide. He lost his position with World Vision and his wife divorced him. He had an explosive temper and never made the main thing the main thing.
4. The main thing is to occupy until He comes. **LUKE 19:12-13**
 - A. To occupy means to use our God-given gifts, talents and abilities for the glory of God and advancement of His kingdom.
 - B. To carry on spiritual business for the King until He returns.
 - C. To serve God willingly and do what He instructs us to do.
 - D. To witness to the lost and warn them of coming judgment.
 - E. To be a productive fruit bearing branch in the vine.
 - F. Keep the main thing the main thing.

CONCLUSION: We are in the last days and can be a part of the generation that ushers in Jesus' return. Shouldn't we be about the Lord's business? Shouldn't we be good stewards of God's grace and working even harder in the vineyard? We want no regrets. Jesus is coming soon, so let's make the main thing the main thing and live for the purpose of bringing Jesus dividends on the investments He deposited in our lives.