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## Dear Friends,



Many of you have written concerning the most recent eruption of end times scenarios and current events related to signs. I have taught extensively in the recent past on many of these issues. (Refer to our *Nightlight* archive #192, Read the Signs. Others include #189, #222, #223, #224, and #261.)

Many of these communications have landed in two opposite camps. One consists of an overwhelming fear of impending cataclysms which things like the blood moons may portend; the other, a rather cynical view that such things have no significance at all and that it is mere hype. I humbly submit that both of these points of view are off the mark.

To me it is important to read the signs of the times prayerfully and corporately, submitting to God's Spirit and to the wisdom and discretion found in the wider body of Christ. None of us has all the revelation and we need to balance and enhance each other, especially in matters that are not crystal clear, such as this topic exemplifies. Awakened concern yes, but it is always necessary to resist any concept of end of the world fear. Either panic or positivity is wrong.

I have been a bit amazed and somewhat bothered that some folks were expecting some earth shaking event on the day of the Shemitah for instance. That there was a huge collapse in markets aside, I never expected any single final event to occur during any of these sign dates (for lack of a better term.) On the other hand I prayerfully take these events seriously as sign posts. When driving to Dallas I take the signs referring to my eventual arrival in Dallas seriously. But I do not mistake the sign that savs "Dallas: 30 miles" to mean that when I see the sign I can expect to be *instantly* in Dallas. The sign only tells me I am approaching the vicinity. It is meant to inform me so I can adjust my expectations and maybe behavior accordingly.

I believe the signs in the sky, in the nations, the economy, the raging flood of human sin, the increase in the openly demonic, and most of all the move of the Holy Spirit, are all telling us to be aware that we are approaching momentous changes. All of it eventually will result in what the Scripture calls the end of this age. It should cause us to live each day in obedience and with a focus on the fact that every day we are closer to the return of the Lord. But it should also remind us that ever since the Resurrection of our Lord from the dead, the moment his foot stepped out of the tomb that *was* the end of the age and the birth of the Kingdom. It is both NOW and still to come. We look and long for His appearing. But we live in union with Him NOW.

The signs of the soon collapse of this age and the glorious appearing of the Lord should fill us with joy and anticipation, never fear. End time portents should not be sources of fear for any who belong to Jesus and who are seeking to obey Him. So to whatever extent fear is present, it means there is a need to check our hearts for un dealt with sin. At the same time, a blasé indifference to world events is either a sign of childish ignorance or unbelieving worldliness rising from an affinity with the glitz and glamour of this dying system. We should know the world we live in and not be of it.

We need to LISTEN. We need to STUDY but on our knees. And we need to humbly listen also to each other. Most of all, we need to OCCUPY, be about our Father's business, manifesting the life, love, and truth of Jesus in the earth, wherever we are and in whatever we are doing. Loving the cranky neighbor is far more Kingdom effective than charting the rise of the antichrist.

> A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. All men will know that you are my disciples if you love one another. John 13: 34-35

Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold, but he who stands firm to the end will be saved. And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come. Matthew 24: 12-14



# Movie Review

## Woodlawn

It was a nostalgic moment when the opening seenes of this film took me to 1973. I was a college sophomore as the racial tensions aflame in the 60's settled down to a smoldering not-so-peaceful co existence of the 70's. But it was far more than mere nostalgia that moved me as the story of the wind of the Holy Spirit blew away the embers of potential civil war.

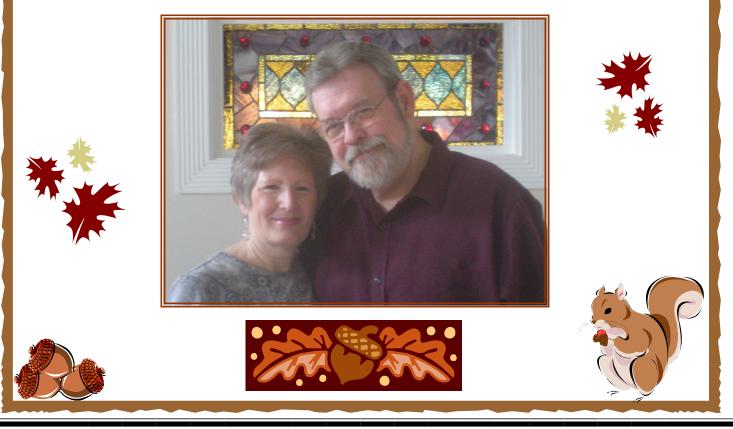
Your middle school and older children need to see this film and know this story, for we are in many ways right there again. I hope you will all go and support WOODLAWN in your theaters and not wait for it to come out on DVD. You VOTE with your ticket sales. And the more such films as this one are well supported, the more they can be produced.



## Closing Thoughts ...

Please continue to keep the suffering church in your focus and make your resources available as much as you are able to organizations that can use them. These and other ministries can offer direct intervention to help our brothers and sisters suffering under the evil oppressive cruelty of antichrist. Remember Mercury One Nazarene Fund, Voice of the Martyrs, Open Doors, and Samaritan's Purse, to name a few, and give as you can, pray always, and be more than politely concerned. Keep your heart aflame on their behalf. Remember them that are in chains as chained with them. Hebrews 13:3

#### With thanks for each one of you, Clay & Mary



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