The Blue Church Sunday Morning, January 7, 2018

***The Last Days!***

What happens next?

Life Lessons from Four Apostles

Last Days, Last of the Last Days, or Just Any Day?

Hebrews 1:2

***What do we know about “The Last Days” from history?***

 Hundreds of end-of-the-world predictions have been wrong.

 In spite of repeated folly, the end-is-near prophecies continue.

 Unbridled speculation about the future fosters fear and chaos.

***What do the Scriptures teach about “The Last Days”?***

 The TANAKH (Our “Old Testament”) speaks of the “latter days,” revealing that world kingdoms would dominate history before and into that time. Deuteronomy 4:30; Jeremiah 30:24; Daniel 2:28; 10:14; Hosea 3:5; *etc.*

 The TANAKH gives glimpses that in the latter days, God’s King (Messiah) will appear. Gen. 3:6; 49:10; Numbers 24:7-9

 Jesus, the promised Messiah/King, taught that His return in the latter days would be preceded by wars, earthquakes, famines, apostasy, persecution, AND, false predictions about the end. Luke 11:7-9; 19:11-27

 Jesus taught that while the time of His coming would be unknown, it would not be unexpected (by His disciples). Mark 13:33-37; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

 Jesus taught that His return would be public, clear, and worldwide, and immediately preceded by unmistakable cosmic disturbances, the “last of the Last Days.” Luke 21:25-28; 1 John 2:18; Revelation 1:7

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***Last Days Life Lessons***

 1. With the coming of Messiah Jesus, we entered “The Last Days.”

 2. As of this moment, we are not experiencing the very “last of the Last Days.” How do we know? Because our age is continuing according to Jesus’ prediction: wars, famine, earthquakes, *etc.*

 3. Those signs that will signal Jesus’ return are not happening: the antichrist being revealed, cosmic signs in the heavens, intensified, world-wide persecution, and the gospel going to all nations.

 4. The command is for us to be ready for whatever is ahead, and to live so as not to be ashamed should Jesus return at any moment.

***Going Deeper--For Growth Groups:***

1. With the bad record “date setters” have, why do they continue?

2. What harm comes from the false date-setting prophecies?

3. Why do you think God did not tell us when Jesus would return? What are the good points about our not knowing the day or hour?