

I heard some young people talking the other day about all the bad things going on in our world. From all the extreme weather issues to wars and conflicts to political unrest in so many areas of the world, most decent people fear saying anything that could remotely cause a stir.

These young people are certainly observing our world, I'll give them that much.

But then they said something that made me pause.

"You know what the means." said one of them with a crafty smile.

The other smiles back, "Jesus is coming back and it's time to get ready, people."

Fist pump and giddiness follows.

What surprised me was that this wasn't a unique reaction to the world problems we are facing. There are a lot of people who seem cheerful at the demise of our world. Many Christians take the position that they are not of this world, they are of the spiritual world, so if the world ends soon, that's fine with them because it means soon they will be with Jesus in eternal bliss.

Praise the Lord. Let's sing a hymn.

But here's why I pause.

First, I could make the argument that every generation since Jesus has believed with reasonable justification that their generation was witnessing the end of times. Heck, the disciples of Jesus had a great sense of urgency because Jesus told them he would be back to gather his people and they were thinking that he meant like soon. The middle ages with all the plagues certainly could argue the end of times. My grandparents during World War I. My parents during World War II. My generation, there was a lot of talk during the '60s. And that's just off the top of my head without really studying the generations in between.

Point is that most generations have been able to look at issues as a sign of the end of times. This world is not a perfect world. But before you pack your bags for the express ride to eternal bliss, you might want to tone down the giddiness.

Secondly - and more importantly in my eyes - is that becoming a cheerleader for the world problems is certainly NOT consistent with the message Jesus brought us. Anyone who sees the problems of the world as a good thing needs to seriously check their hearts.

Now I'm honest enough to admit there have been many nights when I've prayed to God, "I know you threw a rock at this planet before and started over. I'm just say'n you're welcome to do so again if you want. The dinosaurs were just too big, but we've screwed up so much of this world, I wouldn't blame you for another do-over, that's for sure."

Of course, that's when my guardian angel whispers in my ear, "Ya had a bad day old man. Stop whining at God and go to sleep. Tomorrow's a new day."

The message Jesus brought to us was to love God, love our neighbors and love ourselves. It's pretty clear that our 'judgement day' will be measured by the quality of love in our hearts.

God created this beautiful planet with all the wonderful animals, seasons and diverse lifestyles. How can you celebrate when we've done so much to put HIS creation in peril?

I understand that I am not of this world, as Jesus taught us. I understood when my daughter passed away that it was her body full of cancer that died, it wasn't her spirit. I understand her love is still in my heart and those who knew her. I understand and have faith that God is providing a wonderful eternity for her based on the love she created in her time on this planet.

I also understand in my old age that all those aches and pains and frustrations that makes me pray for God to go ahead and throw that rock, is centered on my worldly body and experiences, not my spiritual well being.

There is no difference between our attitude towards this world we live in now and our attitude for our spiritual world. God created this wonderful world we live in with all it's diversity and opportunities to grow in a positive direction.

We should never take pleasure in the many problems that has brought this beautiful creation to be on the brink of destruction. God specifically put us in charge of taking care of this home he created for us and I, for one, do not want to see the look of disappointment on Gods face when I cross over, that's for sure.

I will always continue to pray that LOVE wins the day.