

Missing The Mark

Gary McDade

The end of the world date setters always “miss the mark” causing one to wonder why they keep doing it. Harold Camping was in the lime light on this point in 2011 because of his prediction that the so called “rapture” would occur on May 21st and the end of the world on October 21st. Camping, now in his nineties, is best known for starting the Family Radio Network back in 1958. His spokesperson, Susan Espinoza, said, “He believed the Bible taught very definitely that the Rapture would occur on May 21, 2011, and the end of the world on October 21. Because that did not happen, he is rethinking what God is teaching us about those dates, and what we should be doing now” (http://www.msnbc.msn.com/id/45810280/ns/technology_and_science/t/doomsday-minister-mum-forecast/). Espinoza, who doesn’t appear to have much finesse as a “spin doctor,” relates that Camping “does not feel inclined to search for any new dates.”

Camping will spend as much time searching for what the dates he set mean as he will looking for the so called “rapture” in the Bible because neither ever appear from Genesis to Revelation. Sadly, the power of deception is at work with someone like him because for decades he has been convinced that such a thing as the “rapture” was true when it is never even mentioned in the Bible—neither the word “rapture” nor the concept. What is of interest here is the way a person becomes so deceived that he would publicly embarrass himself—like Camping has done—because he no longer values what Jesus Christ actually said on the subject of his speculation. And more, he purposely has repressed what the Lord said on the subject in order to elevate his own thoughts and words above Jesus’! This observation is given because what Jesus said on the subject is not under review for some supposed inaccuracy, it simply is not considered at all! Note what our Lord said that is so crystal clear as to defy misunderstanding:

Matthew 24:35-36

Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away. But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only.

“Missing the mark” on this subject is so serious because it results in two tremendously adverse conditions. One, the speculator has jeopardized his own soul. Long ago Moses warned, “But the prophet, which shall presume to speak a word in my name, which I have not commanded him to speak, or that shall speak in the name of other gods, even that prophet shall die. And if thou say in thine heart, How shall we know the word which the Lord hath not spoken? When a prophet speaketh in the name of the Lord, if the thing follow not, nor come to pass, that is the thing which the Lord hath not spoken, but the prophet hath spoken it presumptuously: thou shalt not be afraid of him” (Deuteronomy 18:20-22). Two, the speculator has caused an occasion against the Lord, even as the prophet Nathan told David regarding his sin with Bathsheba, “Howbeit, because by this deed thou hast given great occasion to the enemies of the Lord to blaspheme” (2 Samuel 12:14). Harold Camping was featured on national news several times for his predictions regarding the end of the world, and an unbelieving media reveled in their non-fulfillment. Camping and other premillennialists continue to “miss the mark.”