**CHURCH PRAY!!!- BECAUSE TIMES IS WINDING UP –**

**BE RAPTURE READY DECEMBER 29, 2024 HANDOUT**

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***Study Scriptures:***

**Matthew 25:1-13 Amplified Bible Parable of Ten Virgins**

25 “Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins, who took their lamps and went to [a]meet the bridegroom.

2 Five of them were foolish [thoughtless, silly, and careless], and five were wise [far-sighted, practical, and sensible].

3 For when the foolish took their lamps, they did not take any [extra] oil with them,

4 but the wise took flasks of oil along with their lamps.

5 Now while the bridegroom was delayed, they all began to nod off, and they fell asleep.

6 But **at midnight** there was a shout, ‘Look! The bridegroom [is coming]! Go out to meet him.’

7 Then all those virgins got up and put their own lamps in order [trimmed the wicks and added oil and lit them].

8 But the foolish virgins said to the wise, ‘**Give us some of your oil, because our lamps are going out**.’

9 But the wise replied, ‘No, otherwise there will not be enough for us and for you, too; go instead to the dealers and buy oil for yourselves.’

10 But while they were going away to buy oil, the bridegroom came, and those who were ready went in with him to the wedding feast; and the door was shut and locked.

11 Later the others also came, and said, ‘Lord, Lord, open [the door] for us.’

12 But He replied, ‘**I assure you and most solemnly say to you, I do not know you [we have no relationship].**’

13 Therefore, **be on the alert [be prepared and ready], for you do not know the day nor the hour [when the Son of Man will come].**

**Luke 21:36 Amplified Bible**

36 But keep alert at all times [be attentive and ready], praying that you may have the strength and ability [to be found worthy and] to escape all these things that are going to take place, and to stand in the presence of the Son of Man [at His coming].”

**Psalm 103:19 Amplified Bible**

19 The Lord has established His throne in the heavens,

And His sovereignty rules over all [the universe].

**1 Corinthians 6:9-10 Amplified Bible**

9 Do you not know that the unrighteous will not inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God? **Do not be deceived; [a]neither the sexually immoral, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate [by perversion], nor [b]those who participate in homosexuality,**

10 nor thieves, nor the greedy, nor drunkards, nor revilers [whose words are used as weapons to abuse, insult, humiliate, intimidate, or slander], nor swindlers will inherit or have any share in the kingdom of God.

11 And such were some of you [before you believed]. --But you were washed [by the atoning sacrifice of Christ], you were sanctified [set apart for God, and made holy], you were justified [declared free of guilt] in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and in the [Holy] Spirit of our God [the source of the believer’s new life and changed behavior].

**1 Corinthians 16:13 Amplified Bible**

13 Be on guard; stand firm in your faith [in God, respecting His precepts and keeping your doctrine sound]. Act like [mature] men and be courageous; be strong.

Hebrews 3:12-19 Amplified Bible The Peril of Unbelief

12 Take care, brothers and sisters, that there not be in any one of you a wicked, unbelieving [a]heart [which refuses to trust and rely on the Lord, a heart] that turns away from the living God. 13 But continually encourage one another every day, as long as it is called “Today” [and there is an opportunity], so that none of you will be hardened [into settled rebellion] by the deceitfulness of sin [its cleverness, delusive glamour, and sophistication]. 14 For we [believers] have become partakers of Christ [sharing in all that the Messiah has for us], if only we hold firm our newborn confidence [which originally led us to Him] until the end, 15 while it is said,

“Today [while there is still opportunity] if you hear His voice,

Do not harden your heart, as when they provoked Me [in the rebellion in the desert at Meribah].”

16 For who were they who heard and yet provoked Him [with rebellious acts]? Was it not all those who came out of Egypt led by Moses? 17 And with whom was He angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose dead bodies were scattered in the desert? 18 And to whom did He swear [an oath] that they would not enter His rest, but to those who disobeyed [those who would not listen to His word]? 19 So we see that they were not able to enter [into His rest—the promised land] because of unbelief and an unwillingness to trust in God.

**2 Peter 2:22 Amplified Bible**

22 The thing spoken of in the true proverb has happened to them, “The dog returns to his own vomit,” and, “A sow is washed only to wallow [again] in the mire.”

**John 3:29-30 Amplified Bible**

29 He who has the bride is the bridegroom; but the friend of the bridegroom, who stands by and listens to him, rejoices greatly because of the bridegroom’s voice. So this pleasure and joy of mine is now complete.

30 He must increase [in prominence], but I must decrease.

**Ephesians 4:11-13 Amplified Bible**

11 And [His gifts to the church were varied and] He Himself appointed some as apostles [special messengers, representatives], some as prophets [who speak a new message from God to the people], some as evangelists [who spread the good news of salvation], and some as pastors and teachers [to shepherd and guide and instruct],

12 [and He did this] to fully equip and perfect the saints (God’s people) for works of service, to build up the body of Christ [the church];

13 until we all reach oneness in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God, [growing spiritually] to become a mature believer, reaching to the measure of the fullness of Christ [manifesting His spiritual completeness and exercising our spiritual gifts in unity].

**Ephesians 1:9-10 Amplified Bible**

9 He made known to us the mystery of His will according to His good pleasure, which He purposed in Christ,

10 with regard to the fulfillment of the times [that is, the end of history, the climax of the ages]—to bring all things together in Christ, [both] things in the heavens and things on the earth.

**Revelation 2:5 Amplified Bible**

5 So remember the heights from which you have fallen, and repent [change your inner self—your old way of thinking, your sinful behavior—seek God’s will] and do the works you did at first [when you first knew Me]; otherwise, I will visit you and **remove your lampstand (the church, its impact) from its place—unless you repent**.

**Mark 13:24-26 Amplified Bible The Return of Christ**

24 “But in those days, after [the suffering and distress of] that tribulation, the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light, 25 and the stars will be falling from the sky, and the powers that are in the heavens will be shaken.

26 Then they will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory [in royal majesty and splendor].