

Get Smart

Some of the older members had the privilege of living and growing up in a world much different than we have today. Everyone knows I am a T.V. and old movie buff and I have a surplus of useless trivia on the topics. We actually had television programs that were entertaining and not full of the woke junk, drug commercials and satanic crap that is offered as entertainment today. That being said, thanks to the young folks, after reading and studying some end time prophecy scriptures and searching a few sites, this came to mind.

“Get Smart” was one of the old T.V. series that was a parody of the spy movies of the 1960’s. Even the show’s name was a lampoon as the lead character’s name was Maxwell Smart. He worked for the “good guy” secret agency “Control,” and was always pitted against the “bad guys” who worked for “Chaos.” Don Adams was the star of the show and he was a comedian of his time.

Secret Agent 86, Maxwell Smart (Don Adams), was a wise cracking but bumbling American version of Inspector Clouseau of The Pink Panther films. Sight gags like his “phone shoe” and the “cone of silence” were quite funny for the time. His female counter-part was Agent 99 and was played by Barbara Feldon.

The show was a hit and ran for five seasons and even had a movie spin-off in 1980 called the “Nude Bomb.” A series revival attempt was made in 1989 and a full-length movie starring Steve Carell came out in 2008.

This is probably a long introduction into a play on the title but we as believers need control and are fighting against “Chaos” similar to Agent 86.

We are so inundated with chaos in our daily lives it is becoming more and more difficult to stay focused on the truly important things we need to stay focused on. Distractions at every turn, inflation, stretching paychecks to cover necessities, traffic coming back (has it ever left?) and all the conflict going on in the world, especially now in Israel. Things are heating up. If you want a good night’s sleep, do not watch the evening news. I am not saying bury yourself in the backyard, but how much should we be concerned or distracted? Where should we concentrate our attention?

2 Thessalonians 2:1-3- “Now we beseech you, brethren, concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our gathering together to Him, That you not be quickly shaken in mind, nor be troubled—neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by epistle, as if from us, *saying* that the day of Christ is present. Do not let anyone deceive you

by any means because *that day will not* come unless the apostasy shall come first, and the man of sin shall be revealed—the son of perdition,”

We have discussed this numerous times in the past and it is pertinent that we keep all scripture in mind. God has not given us a spirit of fear (**2 Timothy 1:7**). None of the world events going on is a surprise. None of it.

2 Thessalonians 2:5- “Do you not remember that when I was still with you, **I told you these things?**”

The enemy and his world will have a way of encroaching upon our peace and disrupt, distract, and cause us to lose sight of what is truly important, and that is *our spiritual condition*. We are to watch but not the T.V.

Matthew 24:42- “Watch, therefore, because you do not know in what hour your Lord is coming.” (**Matthew 25:13, Mark 13:35**).

God gives us instructions throughout His Word on how we can prepare.

Luke 21:36- “Watch therefore, and pray at all times that you may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.”

Is it a shock to anyone that the Catholic Church has homosexuals in its hierarchy? That was old news when I was in high school, but by today’s standards it is a seminary requirement! Tragic indeed. Many protestant churches condone homosexual conduct and even have some pastors that are professed gays or lesbians. It is bad enough to preach another gospel and then have the audacity to openly admit one’s perversion from behind the pulpit. They are obviously not good readers...

Leviticus 18:22- “You shall not lie with mankind as with womankind. It is an abomination *to God.*”

Leviticus 20:13- “If a man also lies with mankind, as he lies with a woman, both of them have committed an abomination. They shall surely be put to death. Their blood *shall be* upon them.”

They must have skipped over Leviticus...can we control how or what is being preached in churches today?

Romans 1:26-32- “For this cause, God abandoned them to disgraceful passions; for even their women changed the natural use of sex into that which is contrary to nature; And in the same manner also the men, having left the natural use of sex with the woman, were inflamed in their lustful passions toward one another—men with men shamelessly committing lewd acts, and receiving back within themselves a fitting penalty for their error. And in exact proportion as they did not consent to have God in *their* knowledge, God abandoned them to a reprobate mind, to practice *those* things that are immoral; Being filled with all unrighteousness, sexual immorality, wickedness, covetousness, malice; full of envy, murder, strife, guile, evil dispositions; whisperers, Slanderers, God-haters, insolent, proud, boasters, inventors of evil things and practices; disobedient to parents, Void of understanding, covenant breakers, without natural affection, implacable and unmerciful; Who, knowing the righteous judgment of God, that those who commit such things are worthy of death, not only practice these things themselves, **but also approve of those who commit them.**”

Does this scripture in Roman's sound like a prediction of what our society looks like today? It is nearly 2000 years old and it hits the nail on the head. Is it any surprise the church is full of alphabet perverts? Look at all of the sexual perversions on television and in movies. Even kids *cartoon shows* nowadays have "gay parents" in them. The producers of so-called entertainment must cater to the pressure of the LGBTQ (and whatever other letters they can attach) and include interracial, homo-sexual, and bi-sexual characters in what is shown. So gay pastors, Catholic priests and other assorted fruits and nuts should not be a distraction to us. In all seriousness, can you or I *control* any of this? Not hardly.

Mark 13:22-23- "For there shall arise false Christs and false prophets, and they shall give signs and wonders, in order to deceive, if possible, even the elect. But you, watch out for them! Behold, **I have foretold all these things to you.**"

My brother posted a meme on Facebook this week that read, "America needs church." I love my brother and thought for a while he may be joining our ranks but I guess it is not his time. He is involved with the Presbyterian Church, sings in the choir (quite well too), know the scriptures but as the Parable of the Sower, his cares of the world and traditions stopped his forward progress. I withheld any

posting of scriptures...for now, but the time is coming, the Lion of Judah is going to roar. We had better have the faith to be in right standing.

Matthew 13:22- “And the one who was sown among the thorns is the one who hears the Word, but the cares of this life and the deceitfulness of riches choke the Word, and it becomes unfruitful.”

This can be heartbreaking as I know many of us have family members who have not yet been called or have not been baptized. My brother actually had our baptism books. I knew what he was thinking of and playing both sides. I told him we would not baptize him as it is that serious and he could not make something more holy than what God already did.

Playing both sides would not cut it. Can we seriously do anything about it? Can we change their minds? I am sure we would if it were in our power to do so, but the reality is, it is not. Prayer and setting Christ's example are our best remedy.

Remember John 6:44. We must keep our faith and our focus on God and His Word, doing as He commands us to do. Trust in God in all things.

Acts 16:31- “Then they said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you shall be saved, you and your household.”

There is a sermon in this scripture as most misconstrue this to mean that their household (family) will be saved if they believe. But read the entire scripture and content. Paul and Silas were just freed from their bonds. These words were spoken to the jailer who asked “what must I do to be saved?” Acts 16:31 was their reply. The jailer and his family were baptized shortly thereafter.

While we may believe and follow God’s Law, Sabbaths and Holy Days and are baptized, this is not a ticket for unbelieving family members to the First Resurrection. We can pray God will call them at the Second Resurrection. Again, we have no control over who God calls and even the ones He does, it is up to ***them*** to fulfill His requirements. If not, the thousand-year nap is waiting for them. Do not be worrisome or anxious about their conditions. Stay in control of your spiritual growth and walk with God.

Matthew 6:25-30- “Because of this I say to you, do not be anxious about your life *as to* what you shall eat and what you shall drink; nor about your body *as to* what you shall wear. Is not life *more* than food, and the body *more* than clothing?”

Observe the birds of heaven: they do not sow, neither do they reap, nor do they gather into granaries; and your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much better than they? But who among you, by taking careful thought, is able to add one cubit to his stature? And why are you anxious about clothing? Observe the lilies of the field, how they grow: they do not labor, nor do they spin; But I say to you, not even Solomon in all his glory was arrayed as one of these. Now if God so arrays the grass of the field, which today is and tomorrow is cast into the oven, *shall* He not much rather clothe you, O *you* of little faith?"

Epictetus, a first century Roman philosopher taught the importance of knowing what we can control and what we cannot. His prescription for a simple life was to control what you can and let go of what you cannot. Sometimes this is easier said than done. We do not have to "fix" everyone else around us. Shoving scripture and our personal beliefs down someone's throat will not yield the results hoped for. If anything, it will drive them away. Let them see the joy of the Lord in us, God will do the rest.

Staying in control can be a detriment to some. I am certain we have all encountered a micromanager at some point in our careers. These are the folks that no matter what the circumstances, they must remain in control of others. A lack of focus,

insecurity, or for whatever reasons will lead these types to limited success. I remember one SWAT Captain I worked with that always had to be in charge. It would have been tolerable except he led from the rear.

There are all styles of supervisors, managers, and leaders: Authoritarian, my way or the highway, Laissez-faire, a hands-off approach, or Eclectic, which can be a combination of both. We need to stay focused on the things we really *can control*.

Our faith and trust in God and living His way of life is our foundation and focus. If we but only do the things He tells us to do in His Word, the things of this world will fade into their proper place. Our control begins with loving God first.

Matthew 22:36-40- “Master, which commandment *is the* great commandment in the Law?” And Jesus said to him,” ‘You shall love *the* Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.’ This is *the* first and greatest commandment; And *the* second *one is* like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

Following His Commandments and way of life are the next step. We can choose to have clarity and peace which come with obedience and actively seeking God.

Psalm 119:165- “Great peace have those who love Your law, and there is no stumbling block for them.”

2 John 1:6- “And this is the love *of God*: that we walk according to His commandments. This is the commandment, exactly as you heard from *the* beginning, that you might walk in it.”

Following God’s Word to the letter and *spirit* of its intent will draw us closer in our relationship with Him. This we can control. The inward changes *will* take place *if we are sincere in our hearts*.

John 13:34-35- “A new commandment I give to you: that you love one another in the same way that I have loved you, that is how you are to love one another. By this shall everyone know that you are My disciples—if you love one another.”

1 Peter 3:8- “Now the goal *is that* all of you be of one mind, sympathizing, loving the brethren, compassionate and friendly;”

By loving each other as Christ loved us, God will dwell in us and His love will be perfected in us.

1 John 4:11-12- “Beloved, if God so loved us, we also are duty-bound to love one another. No one has seen God at any time. Yet, if we love one another, God dwells in us, and His own love is perfected in us.”

With all of the chaos in the world and Satan’s all out efforts to deter us in our journey, does our focus truly need to be on anything but Him? I am not encouraging being so heavenly minded you become no earthly good. I am saying, do not be so overly concerned with things in this world you cannot control. We do not know the hour or day when our Lord will return. When that occurs, it will not matter how much or how many things or people we tried to control. The only thing that will have eternal consequences is that we have fought the good fight, we have grown in the image of Jesus Christ and that our relationship with God is unwavering. God will know us.

2 Peter 3:9-11- “The Lord is not delaying the promise *of His coming*, as some in their own minds reckon delay; rather, He is longsuffering toward us, not desiring that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. However, the day of *the* Lord shall come as a thief in *the* night in which the heaven itself shall disappear with a mighty roar, and *the* elements shall pass away, burning with intense heat, and *the* earth and the works in it shall be burned up. Since all these things are

going to be destroyed, what kind of *persons* ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness,”

Knowing these things beforehand, God has given us the choice to pursue a righteous life style and the freedom to concentrate on the truly vital matters that will determine our salvation. We have been called out from the world and we need not be caught up in it even though we still live here. So, stay in control and avoid the chaos, we cannot change it, only God can and rest assured...HE WILL.

Hebrews 13:20-21- “And *may* the God of peace, Who raised our Lord Jesus from among *the* dead—that great Shepherd of the sheep—through *the* blood of *the* everlasting covenant, Perfect you in every good work in order that you may do His will; accomplishing in you that which *is* well pleasing in His sight, through Jesus Christ, to Whom *be the* glory into the ages of eternity. Amen.”

