

DISTRACT, DISTRACTED, DISTRACTION, DISTRACTS, PREOCCUPIED

Our eyes must remain fixed on the Lord. We must not be **distracted** from Him.

- **Psalm 25:15:** "Mine eyes are ever toward the LORD; for he shall pluck my feet out of the net."

It seems Heman was saying the terrors he was suffering had caused him to be **distracted**.

- **Psalm 88:15:** "I am afflicted and ready to die from my youth up: while I suffer thy terrors I am distracted."

In order to bear fruit we must remove everything from our lives that would **distract** us from God's word.

- **Matthew 13:22:** "He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful."

Jesus wants Christians to understand prophecy and pay attention to it. He wants us to know the signs of His return and be watching for them to come to pass. Jesus didn't tell us to ignore this subject, or say that it was a **distraction** from more important things.

- **Matthew 25:13:** "Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh."

Jesus didn't teach that end-times prophecy was a **distraction** from more important matters. Instead it's something we must understand and pay attention to.

- **Mark 13:23, 33, 35-37:** "But take ye heed: behold, I have foretold you all things. ... Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. ... Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning: Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping. And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch."

Watching for the return of Jesus isn't a waste of time or a **distraction** from more important things. Instead it's something Jesus commands (and something He will bless).

- **Luke 12:36-38, 42-43:** "And ye yourselves like unto men that wait for their lord, when he will return from the wedding; that when he cometh and knocketh, they may open unto him immediately. Blessed are those servants, whom the lord when he cometh shall find watching: verily I say unto you, that he shall gird himself, and make them to sit down to meat, and will come forth and serve them. And if he shall come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. ... And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his lord shall make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of meat in due season? Blessed is that servant, whom his lord when he cometh shall find so doing."

Jesus doesn't want us to be **distracted** from watching for His

return.

- **Luke 21:34:** "And take heed to yourselves, lest at any time your hearts be overcharged with surfeiting, and drunkenness, and cares of this life, and so that day come upon you unawares."

When Jesus told the Samaritan woman that she had previously had five husbands, she tried to **distract** Jesus from her sin by bringing up an unrelated topic.

- **John 4:17-20:** "The woman answered and said, I have no husband. Jesus said unto her, Thou hast well said, I have no husband: For thou hast had five husbands; and he whom thou now hast is not thy husband: in that saidst thou truly. The woman saith unto him, Sir, I perceive that thou art a prophet. Our fathers worshipped in this mountain; and ye say, that in Jerusalem is the place where men ought to worship."

The twelve disciples didn't want to serve widows each day, because that would be a **distraction** from their calling to preach the word of God. (That's why seven deacons were chosen, to make sure the needs of the widows were met.)

- **Acts 6:2:** "Then the twelve called the multitude of the disciples unto them, and said, It is not reason that we should leave the word of God, and serve tables."

Getting married **distracts** us from the Lord. It causes us to focus on the things of the world instead of the things of God. (That doesn't mean marriage is a sin. However, it does make serving God more difficult.)

- **1 Corinthians 7:34:** "There is difference also between a wife and a virgin. The unmarried woman careth for the things of the Lord, that she may be holy both in body and in spirit: but she that is married careth for the things of the world, how she may please her husband."

Paul wanted Christians to be able to attend to the Lord without **distraction**.

- **1 Corinthians 7:35:** "And this I speak for your own profit; not that I may cast a snare upon you, but for that which is comely, and that ye may attend upon the Lord without distraction."

Paul wanted prophecy to be taught in the church. He believed it was both relevant and beneficial, and should even be desired by the church. Paul didn't believe it was a **distraction**, or that the church was better off without it.

- **1 Corinthians 14:3:** "But he that prophesieth speaketh unto men to edification, and exhortation, and comfort."

Doctrine isn't a **distraction** from more important matters. Instead it's something that edifies the church, and it *must* be proclaimed.

- **1 Corinthians 14:6:** "Now, brethren, if I come unto you speaking with tongues, what shall I profit you, except I shall speak to you either by revelation, or by knowledge, or by prophesying, or by doctrine?"

Paul believed the doctrine of the coming resurrection of the

dead was of immense importance and was central to the gospel. He didn't believe it was unimportant or a **distraction**.

- **1 Corinthians 15:12-14:** "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain."

Paul repeatedly referred to the rapture and the return of Jesus in his letters. He never discouraged anyone from talking about it. He didn't say the subject was a **distraction**, and he never discouraged people from studying end times prophecy. Instead he taught that it was an important topic and was a source of great hope for the church.

- **Philippians 3:20-21:** "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

Paul didn't say that the doctrine of the rapture was irrelevant or a **distraction**. Instead he taught that it was an important source of comfort for the church.

- **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18:** "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the

Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."

The church must not allow itself to be **distracted** by things that don't edify.

- **1 Timothy 1:4:** "Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do."

Our lives must be focused on serving the Lord. We need to remove things that **distract** us from that task.

- **2 Timothy 2:4:** "No man that warreth entangleth himself with the affairs of this life; that he may please him who hath chosen him to be a soldier."

It's not good to be **preoccupied** with food because that doesn't benefit us. (We need to have our hearts set on the things of God, not on the things of this world.)

- **Hebrews 13:9:** "Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines. For it is a good thing that the heart be established with grace; not with meats, which have not profited them that have been occupied therein."

Peter commanded the church to pay close attention to prophecy, and to study and remember it. He didn't say that prophecy was a **distraction** and should be ignored.

- **2 Peter 3:2-4:** "That ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: Knowing this first, that there shall come in the

last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, And saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation."

God wants people to pay attention to prophecy, and take it seriously. He doesn't view prophecy as a **distraction** from more important things. (Instead He promised to bless those who pay attention to it.)

- **Revelation 1:3:** "Blessed is he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time is at hand."

God doesn't consider prophecy to be a **distraction**. Instead it's something He wants spread all over the world, and proclaimed to kings and rulers.

- **Revelation 10:11:** "And he said unto me, Thou must prophesy again before many peoples, and nations, and tongues, and kings."

The study of end times prophecy is not a **distraction**. It's important, and God wants us to hear it and know it.

- **Revelation 13:9:** "If any man have an ear, let him hear."

The book of Revelation isn't irrelevant, and isn't a **distraction**. It contains material that Jesus wants us to have, and that He wanted us to pay attention to and believe.

- **Revelation 22:7:** "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."