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IRRELEVANT

Jesus wants Christians to understand prophecy and pay attention to it. The Lord wants us to know the signs of His return and be watching for Him. He didn't tell us to ignore this subject or say it was an **irrelevant** distraction.

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

Paul didn't think that end times doctrines were **irrelevant** to a church that was being persecuted. Instead he wanted those doctrines to be actively on their minds.

- **1 Thessalonians 1:10:** "And to wait for his Son from heaven, whom he raised from the dead, even Jesus, which delivered us from the wrath to come."

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

- **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 book of Revelation isn't **irrelevant** and it's not a distraction. It contains material that Jesus wanted us to have, and that He commanded us to pay attention to.

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

MEANINGLESS

It's empty and **meaningless** to boast about a gift that you don't have.

- **Proverbs 25:14:** "Whoso boasteth himself of a false gift is like clouds and wind without rain."

Solomon wanted to understand what activities were a good use of his time. He searched for something that was satisfying, that had value, and that wasn't empty or **meaningless**.

- **Ecclesiastes 2:3:** "I sought in mine heart to give myself unto wine, yet acquainting mine heart with wisdom; and to lay hold on folly, till I might see what was that good for the sons of men, which they should do under the heaven all the days of their life."

Solomon had everything this world had to offer. However, when he looked at it closely he realized it was all empty and **meaningless**. He therefore hated life, because the things this world had to offer were meaningless.

- **Ecclesiastes 2:17:** "Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit."

When compared to God, all of the nations are vanity. They're empty and **meaningless**, and without value (when compared to the One who is of infinite value).

- **Isaiah 40:17:** "All nations before him are as nothing; and they are counted to him less than nothing, and vanity."

The things which false prophets claim to have seen are vanity. They're empty and **meaningless**, because they haven't seen anything at all.

- **Ezekiel 13:6:** "They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The LORD saith: and the LORD hath not sent them: and they have made others to hope that they would confirm the word."

Those who speak the languages of mankind, but do so without love, are just speaking **meaningless** noise. Their lack of love damages what they're saying.

- **1 Corinthians 13:1:** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

Those who speak the language of angels, but do so without love, are still just speaking **meaningless** noise.

- **1 Corinthians 13:1:** "Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal."

Those who have tremendous understanding and knowledge, but speak without love, are just speaking **meaningless** noise. Their lack of love damages what they're saying and renders their words empty.

- **1 Corinthians 13:2:** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could

remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

Those who have the gift of prophecy, but speak without love, are just speaking **meaningless** noise. Their lack of love damages what they're saying.

- **1 Corinthians 13:2:** "And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing."

When the Galatians rejected the true gospel, they rendered all their suffering **meaningless**. At that point they were suffering for a false gospel that couldn't save them.

- **Galatians 3:4:** "Have ye suffered so many things in vain? if it be yet in vain."

Sending greetings to someone isn't a **meaningless** gesture. (Paul did it frequently in his letters, and God preserved those greetings in His everlasting word.)

- **Philippians 4:22:** "All the saints salute you, chiefly they that are of Caesar's household."

A faith that produces no works is **meaningless**, because that means a person's beliefs don't influence their actions. A belief that doesn't change anything is worthless (because it produces nothing).

- **James 2:22, 26:** "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and by works was faith made perfect? ... For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is

dead also."