

# Coping With Bad News

Nathan Jones

(Editor's Note: Nathan Jones is Lamb & Lion's Web Minister.)

As a Christian watching and waiting for the Lord Jesus to fulfill His promise of returning to Earth to set up His kingdom of peace, love and righteousness, I keep an eye on world events to discern the biblical signs that foretell of that blessed Second Coming. And so, day after day after day I peruse an endless list of news stories in search of those signs. They are very easy to find, but in the search I also discover that the world is filled with horror. That horror can easily stamp out any glimmer of hope.

## Getting the Blues from the News

Like standing stalwart against the crashing surf, all these constant updates on how bad the world is can eventually erode a person down. Each morning's wake-up has become tinged with a subtle dread of knowing that I'll have to hear about some injustice, atrocity or murder.

My corporate prayer times are filled with reports of moral collapse and further acts that persecute believers in Christ and take the life of the innocent. My personal prayer times seem to more and more address the consequences of man's inhumanity to man. And worse, I gaze at my children and feel a deep sadness that they will not experience the earthly opportunities and freedoms that the American dream had once provided.

## The Bad News of Bible Prophecy

On top of all the terrible news of today, as a student of Bible prophecy I'm also laden with the knowledge of the future horrors of tomorrow. The human institutions of justice created to uphold moral law that so many have shed blood to establish have been corrupted and will disintegrate into a totalitarian regime ruled by a megalomaniac world leader.

Within a few short years, three quarters of the world's population is going to be annihilated by nuclear war, raging famine, deadly pestilence and mass death. Freedom of religion will be stamped out. Those who call Christ "Savior" will be hunted like deer and exterminated. The world will visibly be in the grip of the cruel and merciless Prince of this Age — Satan.

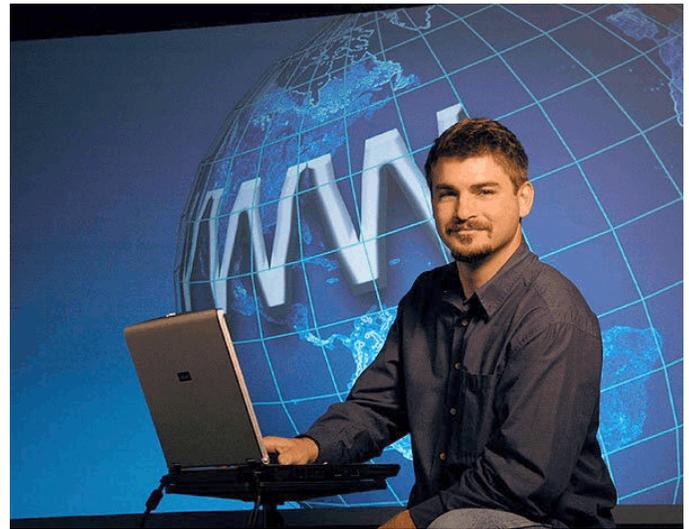
In the midst of it all, I want to cry out, "When, O Lord, are you going to put an end to it?"

## Superficial Coping

Recent polls reveal that many people are trying to cope with the stress through the usual diversions like drugs, alcohol, and promiscuous sex.

How have I been coping with all this badness in the world and my biblical knowledge of what is to come? I have been trying to avoid the news in my spare time. Thus, my lunch breaks have shifted from the television news to a staff member's video recordings of American Idol, and my usual late night surfing of the news sites has been replaced with Netflix movies. The wars I can control are played out in video games.

But, these escapisms are only fleeting respites.



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## Effective Coping

Honest coping — coping that heals the soul — finally arrives when one truly understands why Jesus is waiting to return, allowing the evil in the world to rage on in the meantime. The key to that understanding lies in 2 Peter 3:9 which reads, "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."

This verse teaches that Jesus waits because not everyone who will accept Him as Savior during the present Church Age has yet done so.

## Resting in God's Mercy

I could get mad, and probably in moments of weakness have, because I'm saved and I'm all set to go. My attitude about the Lord's return is "Bring it on!"

But, what if Jesus had come back the day before I had accepted Him as Savior? What if Jesus were to return before your spouse, your child, your parents or best friend have accepted Him, leaving them to experience the wrath He has promised to let loose in judgment upon the whole world? Those questions put my anxiousness for His return into true perspective.

That Jesus hasn't returned yet is amazingly a mercy. The world is in a sorry state of affairs because mankind's free will and Satan's moment of ruling have made it so. But, to have the opportunity to be rescued from our sin and be granted eternal life by the true King of the Universe, the King who one day WILL fulfill His promises of destroying all evil and establishing His perfect kingdom . . . well, that life-saving chance is far too important when compared to our present limited time of suffering.

Jesus loves us, and I love Him for being so merciful. He is patient in returning because He wants everyone to have the opportunity to come to repentance and choose Him as Savior. Fortified with that knowledge, I think my day just got a whole lot brighter! ✚