

Dear

With everything that is going on in the world right now, I feel compelled to write concerning your welfare. Not physically, but your eternal welfare. When I saw the news that Israel has gone to war with Lebanon it brings to mind the future that is assured on earth. While I cannot even begin to lay out a timeline of when things will happen, I can tell you what will happen.

First, Israel will win their current conflict. This will create a backlash in the international community, most notably among Muslim nations. More than likely more violence will erupt. The United Nations may be involved, but they also could stop at nothing more than talk.

Eventually, in what will seem to be a surprise attack, Russia will invade Israel with the vast majority of their military. What seems like certain destruction for that nation will somehow be averted. In fact, through means that could only be described as supernatural, the Russian attack will fail and Israel will have absolutely zero casualties for the attack itself.

Then things get interesting. Political unrest, tensions increasing and a European leader spoken of calling for peace. All that points to one major event. It will be the single biggest event in human history since the resurrection of Christ Jesus. It will be the calling away of His church. In seconds millions of people around the world will vanish. It will happen just as if by magic. I know it sounds laughable to say so, but I want you to know ahead of time so when it happens, if you're still here, you'll know.

Jesus will return in what the Bible describes as the "twinkling of an eye". He won't actually be on earth, but in the eastern sky. Those that know Him personally as Savior and Lord will hear a trumpet. Graves where people who were Christians are buried will empty. Babies will disappear out of wombs. All the little children—infants and toddlers and maybe even some older kids—will be gone. All the Christians, too.

I'm not talking about those that call themselves Christians, either. That's why I'm writing this. Attending church won't be enough to go with Jesus, being a member of a church won't be enough, giving to a church, working in a church—it won't be enough.

The Apostle Paul said in Romans 10:9-10 that "if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by confessing with your mouth that you are saved."

That's the only way to ensure that when Jesus comes back for an event that we term "the rapture," that you aren't left on earth. I know you're a good person. You do good things, help people, make a difference, work hard, and love your family. Unfortunately, work and doing good things aren't going to matter to God. It all comes down to a simple question: Have you confessed Jesus as Savior, or haven't you?

Why is this so important... and why do I bring it up now. There are a few reasons. The first, simply, is that I know what will happen to those that are still on earth. The European Leader who wants peace will rise to power, as essentially the king of the world. He will outlaw Christianity (and maybe other religions or all religions). He will force people to pledge loyalty to him. Those that resist—for whatever reason—will die. Life will be hard. There will be event after cataclysmic event. Earthquakes and other natural disasters will claim millions of lives. Wars and famine will ravage the entire planet.

It can all be avoided. That's what I want you to know. As things escalate here and now we move closer to Jesus' return. We move closer to a time we refer to as "the tribulation". No one has to be here for it, and I don't want you to be here.

I admit, something this important should be considered. I haven't done that. You know what I believe as a Christian. You respect that and go along with it. For that I am grateful. But as I saw the news today, it suddenly dawned on me that it wasn't enough. Religion isn't enough. Relationship is what counts—a relationship with Jesus.

One day I won't be here any more. I can't tell you when, but I know it's coming. Maybe I'll be at work, maybe in class, maybe at home in bed. Suddenly, like a lightning bolt striking, something will happen and I'll be gone. I don't know how much worse it will get in the world before that happens. It might get a lot worse, it might not. After I'm gone, I promise you, for those who are left, it will be worse.

So I write this letter to you today, because I love you and I want you to be with me—no, to be with Jesus—when He comes back. It's so simple. It's not hard at all. All you have to do is look at your life. You've gone to church and done all those religious things. But have you done the one thing that will make the difference? Have you ever asked Jesus to be your Lord?

I implore you, because I love you, to do it now. There was a day some 2000 years ago when God sent His Son into this world. He came, He lived and He died. But death was not the end for Him. Three days after he was placed in the grave, He rose up, alive. And now He offers that life to us. Jesus said Himself in John 3:16-17- "God so loved the world that He gave His only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God did not send His Son into the world to condemn it, but to save it."

God loves you—more than I ever could. He wants you in His family so much that He actually gave up His only Son so that He could have you. Nothing is more important than this in my life. Now, seeing the events taking place in the world and knowing that what will eventually come, I had to tell you. I'm sorry I didn't do it sooner.

I ask you, as I close this letter: Do you remember a time when you said a prayer that invited Jesus into your life? If not, will you do it right now? Just say this prayer out loud:

*Lord, I come to you right now just as I am. I realize that You love me. Your Word says that if I confess Jesus as my Lord and believe in my heart, I will be saved. So right now, I do that. Jesus, I confess that You are the Son of God. I believe that You came and died for me, and that one day You will come back again. I make you My Lord right now, and I thank you for loving me and saving me. In Jesus' name, Amen.*

If you just said that simple prayer, I want you to know how proud I am of you, and thrilled for you. The Bible says that the angels in heaven rejoice over you. Most importantly, as a Christian—not in name but in reality—you are promised by God that you will be with Him in heaven. I'm so glad for that.

I love you very much. Welcome to the Family of God.

Love,