

His return until it occurs. Personally I always say: "There is one thing of which I am absolutely sure, and that is that the return of the Lord is now one year closer than it was a year ago."

Since the Lord told us that we are not to know when He will come back, we should always be ready for His coming and longing that it may be soon. While He tarries we are to wait and to witness in every possible way. Yet no one can deny the possibility that there may still be many centuries before He comes.

3) If neither of the first two possibilities occurs, present trends strongly suggest that there will be events similar to those that destroyed the Roman Empire in the fifth century A.D. At that time perhaps 80 percent of the people in the Roman Empire were literate. Education and culture were common. Though their technology was not comparable to ours, in other regards conditions were quite advanced. Excellent roads ran throughout the empire. There was adequate food for everyone. Yet within two centuries conditions had so deteriorated that the previous civilization was largely forgotten. Very few could read or write. Perhaps another Dark Age looms before us, in which the great material and cultural advances of the present time will seem like a dream of a vanished golden age!

There was a great outbreak of hedonism in the 1960's when thousands of young people wandered about the country seeking to satisfy their own inclinations without bothering about what the rest of the people considered right. In recent years crimes of violence and outbreaks of aggression have increased at an alarming rate.

God calls us to step out with the Gospel of salvation. If ten righteous people could have saved Sodom, think what a few hundred people might do for American society if truly dedicated to the Lord.