

## *Smoky Mountain Reflections, March 2011*

Anticipation, discernment, courage and reason, these may seem to be unrelated but if I put them in the context of the future, you may see them weave nicely together.

**"The Sky is falling!! The Sky is falling!!"** these are the famous words many of us know from the fable called "Chicken Little" or "Henny Penny." It is the familiar tale of a small hen that runs around convincing her whole barnyard community that something must be done because the world will soon come to a drastic end. She comes to this conclusion because an acorn hit her on the head. She works up all her friends (Ducky Lucky, Goosey Loosey, Turkey Lurkey, Foxy Loxy) who run around in a frantic frenzy as if they had this special knowledge and with it could somehow rescue the world from the impending disaster of the falling sky.

It may seem comical and sophomoric to us that barnyard animals think they can save the world from impending doom. But this same theme plays itself out over and over as millions flock to the next worldwide catastrophe, lining the pockets of those selling the bad news. Matthew 7 tells us to **"Beware of false prophets, .... you will recognize them by their fruits.** So what fruit is Mathew speaking about? Look at the fruit and you will understand its source. That which produces goodness, peace, tranquility, service, care, nurturing are fruits of the loving living God. That which produces pain, strife, fear, division, and suffering are the fruits of evil, the evil one, and sin. Here are some examples. The world will end on May 21, 2011, so follow our end time advice and buy our books and support our ministry. The world will end on the winter solstice December 21, 2012, so buy our books and watch our movie. The economy will soon crash, so buy our Gold. The economy will soon crash, so buy food insurance. The world is going to burn up because of greenhouse gases causing global warming, so buy our carbon credits. The world is going to die because you drive a car, so buy our alternative fuel. The Chicken Little's of the world are selling and they are making a tidy profit. I was an Eagle Scout so I would never tell anyone not to "be prepared," but there is a difference between logical biblical urgency and illogical fear of anarchy urgency.

The list of end time prophecies is long, and the two most recent lies can just be added to a long list that spans thousands of years. People were convinced the world would end in 992, 1000, 1033, 1496; Charles Wesley predicted 1794; Joseph Smith, founder of the Mormon church 1832; Ellen White, founder of the Seven Day Adventists 1850-56; Jehovah's Witnesses watchtower society has made numerous predictions of 1874, 1914, 1925, 1932, 1941, 1975 etc.; Herbert W. Armstrong 1936 & 1975; Sun Myung Moon 1981; Pat Robertson 1982; Hal Linsey 1988; David Koresh, 1993; and this is just a partial list. To protect ourselves from cherry-picking false teachers, we need to have our faith planted firmly in Christ and our noses regularly pointed into the Bible. Understanding how to apply faith to God's mysteries and reason to His creation, does not come naturally to our sinful minds. We must go to Him in worship, prayer, and regular personal time in His word for His help, guidance and revelation of His divine will in our temporal lives.

So do not fret the next time a Chicken Little comes knocking at the door. They are selling fear and they are making a tidy little profit. Trust in the Lord and He will provide all you need, maybe not all you want, maybe you will not be happy, but you will be blessed. Maybe you will suffer but your eternity is sure. We may even get to enjoy some of our short time here, but it is our eternal condition that matters to God. He was born, bled, died, rose and will come again to spend eternity with you. So, don't let Him down by rejecting Him and don't let Him down by hoarding His sweet Gospel.

He is there no matter how bleak the future looks. In the words of Saint John in Revelation, Chapter 1, ***"To him who loves us and has freed us from our sins by his blood and made us a kingdom, priests to his God and Father, to him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.***

Mankind has fallen but the sky is not falling....have a blessed Lent

In Christ, Pastor Portier