Introduction

Life is a dangerous endeavor.

• Lawlessness
• Natural Disasters
• Environmental Disasters
• Diseases
• War and Terrorism
• Economic Disasters

We wonder—Is this the end?

There have been many times in the history of the world when people wondered is this it, is this the end?

God doesn’t want us to live in fear. He wants us to continue with his mission until Christ returns.

How should we live in troubled times?

I. Don’t be deceived by false Messiahs.

Matthew 24:4-5

“Watch out...for many will come in my name, claiming I am the Christ.”

• Jim Jones
• David Koresh
• Sun Myung Moon
• Jose Luis de Jesus Miranda

How do we keep from being deceived? Test the spirits.
“Dear friends, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world. This is how you can recognize the Spirit of God: Every spirit that acknowledges that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh is from God, but every spirit that does not acknowledge Jesus is not from God. This is the spirit of the antichrist, which you have heard is coming and even now is already in the world.” I John 4:1-3

II. Don’t be alarmed by world events.
Matthew 24:6-8

“You will hear of wars and rumors of wars...there will be famines and earthquakes in various places.”

These events will characterize the age in which we live.

 Ils. Don’t lose faith.
Matthew 24:9-12

“They are just the beginning of birth pangs.”

“Instead of dismay, we are to serve Jesus faithfully even in the midst of these bad things – until he comes again.” Donald Grey Barnhouse
Jesus warned the disciples that persecution would come and many would turn away from the faith.

It has been that way all through the history of the church.

“More Christians were killed for their faith in the last century that in all the previous centuries combined.” Voice of the Martyrs

“An average of 165,000 martyrs die every year.” Global Evangelization Movement

Jesus calls us to stand firm in our faith.

Pray for those who are suffering.

“Remember those in prison as if you were their fellow prisoners, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering.” Hebrews 13:3

IV. Continue the Mission.

Matthew 24:13-14

Stand firm! Preach the Gospel!

“And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

“I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it.” Matthew 16:18

“And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” Matthew 28:20

We do not go alone.
How do we live in troubled times?
We stay true to our calling and follow Jesus.

Pray for those who have gone out to serve on the front lines in other countries.
Pray that we would stand firm and be bold in our witness for Jesus Christ.