

It therefore seems to me that the term midtribulation is a very deceptive term. If what they mean is mid 70th week, I would say it is highly theoretical. We won't know when the 70th week starts. And if it is midtribulation it means you can recognize the tribulation, why that contradicts what our Lord so definitely says. He said it will be at a time you don't expect. There may be tremendous tribulations at that time. It may be a time of great peace and easy going. Now if I made a guess, I would guess the latter. I would do that solely because the descriptions our Lord gave sound that way. When He said that right before the flood they were eating and drinking, they were marrying and giving in marriage, then suddenly it came.

It sounds as if what he is saying in those commands is not to give you courage in the heart of difficulty in knowing that He might soon come, but to keep you from becoming apathetic and easy going and failing to realize that every minute of your life counts, and should count for the Lord because you don't know when he is going to come and we will have that wonderful joy of receiving Him back.

You take that first term pretribulation. I think that also is an unfortunate term. If you have to select between one of these three terms, I certainly would select it because I feel very definitely that Scripture makes it clear that there is no predicted recognizable event that must come before the rapture of the church. I would prefer it (that term) for that reason. But the term can be very confusing because it can lead people to think there will not be a tribulation and that Christ will come first and there may be many tribulations.

I read one writer who said he had known of a woman who was arrested falsely, thrown into prison, subject to interrogations which were extremely disagreeable and that she had a nervous attack and almost went out of her mind because she said, How can I believe the Bible anymore because the Bible says that Jesus will come back before the tribulation." We may have tribulation and the pretribulation term can easily confuse us. But if you are going to take what they mean by one of these terms, then pretribulation seems to me to come closer than the others to expressing what the Scripture so clearly teaches that the Lord may come at any time and wants us to be ready at His coming.

Now some people get very much excited about it, and become very antagonistic to it. I don't know why they get so upset. I can't imagine a reason why they feel they have to fight to convince people that we don't need to be watching now, to be ready now thinking He might come ~~at~~ --constantly come now. Why do they get so excited about that?

I met a young fellow when he was a college student some years ago, he was all stirred up about this. He went out and became a reporter and all his life he wanted to destroy the idea of a pretribulation rapture. He has written a book in which