

GLEANINGS

Article GE- 67

LEFT BEHIND

In the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew, Jesus Christ cautioned those who would be living in the last days to stay awake. The Greek word that He used means to be vigilant and watchful. As He looked ahead through time, He knew there would be many who would not be vigilant, watchful and discerning of the events that were transpiring around them. He said that they would be so busy with their daily activities (*Matthew 24:38*), they would not take the time to make the proper preparations for His coming. As a result, they will be left behind.

The allure of the world is one of the things that will anesthetize most of the people living in the last days so that they will not be concerned about their need to go to God in prayer, ask forgiveness for their sins and request that the sacrifice Jesus Christ gave on the cross pay for the sin debt they owe. The second reason many people in the last days will not be concerned about making the proper preparation is found in 2 Thessalonians 2:7-12.

"⁷For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way. ⁸And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. ⁹The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, ¹⁰and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. ¹¹For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie ¹²and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness." NIV