

Letter to Harold Camping (Family Radio) True Prophet or False?

by P. G. Mathew, M.A., M.Div., Th.M.

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*“The spiritual man makes judgments about all things,
but he himself is not subject to any man’s judgment” (1 Cor. 2:15)*

Dear Teacher Harold Camping and Staff of Family Radio,

My friends have been listening to your teachings, though not regularly. It is their opinion that you are delusional, disoriented, deceived and deceiving, disciplined by the church of which you used to be a member, a megalomaniac, and a false prophet who teaches the doctrines of demons.

I understand that, although you are not trained in the proper interpretation of Scripture, you have been studying the word on your own for the last fifty years. You believe the Bible is the very word of God and that God spoke everything in parables which speak of an earthly story with a heavenly meaning which you discern as you very carefully do your homework. You teach that one must compare scripture with scripture and very carefully harmonize everything God has said before you teach about anything. Having kicked out all Reformed teachers and their teachings from Family Radio, your true teaching alone now fills the airwaves.

Below are your teachings from numerology and Origen’s allegory:

- that one cannot be saved by believing in Jesus Christ;
- that there is no eternal hell;
- that the Son became incarnate and died twice, first in eternity to pay for the sins of the elect, and then in time to demonstrate how he made atonement, though this atonement in time does not pay for anyone’s sin;
- that the church age ended on May 21, 1988;
- that a second Pentecost occurred on September 7, 1994;
- that the small book of Daniel 12 and Revelation 5 has been opened since 1988 so that more information is readily available to those who listen to Family Radio;
- that every church since 1988 is ruled by Satan;
- that the true gospel is not preached in any church anywhere in the world;

- that people should get out of their churches and listen to the true gospel, which is only available through Family Radio. If people refuse to get out of churches, they will be destroyed during the 153 days from May 21, 2011 through October 21, 2011;
- that through the ministry of Family Radio about 190 million people, a vast multitude, are being saved from 1988 on;
- that the rapture of 200 million people is surely going to take place exactly on May 21, 2011, and the end of the world will take place on October 21, 2011;
- that since the church age ended in 1988, there is no representation of the Kingdom of God anymore;
- that there are no longer any churches, sacraments, ministers, and church governments, but only individual believers listening to Family Radio and being accountable to God. It is important that these individuals financially support Family Radio as they are led and able, so that the true gospel be disseminated throughout the world;
- that no one even in the days of the Reformation had the true gospel. Even Calvin did not have the pure gospel.

It is true that your prediction failed to be fulfilled in 1994. It is also true that you were not very certain of that prediction. However, you have done your homework very precisely and your new prediction arrived at from the Bible is as infallible as the Bible itself. If it fails, then the Bible has failed and God has failed. God cannot fail; therefore, the rapture and the end of the world will take place just as you have predicted. Besides, you have discerned infallible proofs for these predictions. See the following proofs from numerology:

- John 21 speaks of 153 fishes. 153 is $3 \times 3 \times 17$. This means God’s purpose is certain in regard to the salvation of all who are going to heaven without the need of a boat (the church).
- The church age was 1955 years long. 1955 is $5 \times 17 \times 23$. This speaks of atonement, salvation, and judgment.
- The date of the flood, the seventeenth day of the second month, 4990 B.C., is May 21, 4990 B.C. Add to this 7000 years according to 2 Peter 3. The rapture will take place on May 21, 2011.
- The days between the crucifixion of Christ (April 1, 33 A.D.) and the rapture (May 21, 2011) are $1978 \times 365.2422 + 51$, which equals 722,500.07 ($5 \times 10 \times 17 \times 5 \times 10 \times 17$). This doubling clearly shows that the rapture is decreed to take place on May 21, 2011.

My view is this: Either you are completely correct concerning your exclusive knowledge of the timeline of history and it will be proven beyond all doubt on May 21, 2011 when a great earthquake will take place throughout the world, opening every grave and the dead in Christ shall rise to be raptured and the dead in sin shall be shamed; or you are completely wrong.

The rapture may take place before May 21, 2011, or it may take place later. But I believe that no rapture will occur on May 21, 2011. You will again be proven by history to be a false prophet who twists the Scripture to fit your fancy. And in view of your frequent repudiation of your own previous teaching, I expect that on May 22, 2011, you will repudiate your present theory on the rapture and put forth some other outlandish hypothesis “correctly” learned by your arduous study of the Bible.

Mr. Camping, I ask you to not wait until May 22, 2011. I urge you now to repent of your sin of pride, repudiate all your false doctrine, and return to the church to which you had belonged. Time is short. Learn to submit and listen to God’s holy people, and be saved from the wrath to come.

The following letter was sent to Harold Camping on August 22, 1994, in relation to his book, 1994? Pastor Mathew did not receive a reply.

Harold Camping, President
Family Radio
Oakland, CA 94621

Dear Brother Harold,

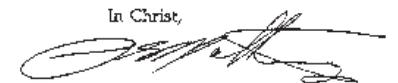
I have been very carefully watching and listening to your teaching regarding the end of the world. I commend you for your sound teaching as far as salvation in Jesus Christ is concerned. I commend you also for rousing our interest in the glorious truth of the second coming of Christ.

However, I consider your methodology which led you to the conclusion that the end of the world will occur sometime in September 1994 to be faulty. Jesus Christ may come in September 1994, and if he does, I will commend you in heaven. But if he does not, I hope you will publicly repudiate the error of your methodology.

If Jesus Christ does not come in September 1994 your teaching would be damaging to the orthodox faith which you espouse. I, therefore, counsel you in the name of the Lord to submit yourself to men of wisdom of the churches of the Reformed tradition and, if needs be, repudiate immediately your September 1994 position. You still have time to rescue yourself and the orthodox churches from needless embarrassment.

I will be praying for you.

In Christ,



P. G. Mathew