



Published 2012

Four Strikes and You're Out

Editorial Comment by Warren Krug

Harold Camping is retiring from the prediction business after failing to predict the end of the world for at least the fourth time. The former head of Family Radio, a California-based organization, applied numerology to the Bible in attempts to determine when the world would end with the return of Jesus.

Camping first set May 21, 1988 as the date for Judgment Day. When that date passed uneventfully, he then determined September 6, 1994 would be the day. Not giving up after that failure, Camping reset the date to May 21 of this year and later October 21. Well, we're still here, of course, and according to *The Christian Post*, Harold Camping has now given up.

Camping's own staff says more than \$100 million was spent trying to wake up the world to his warnings. Many of his followers reportedly sold all their belongings and turned their savings accounts over to the church, although it is hard to fathom why they did this if they really believed the world was ending.

Camping reportedly was surprised, saddened and embarrassed by the failed predictions and feels he can no longer lead his Family Radio ministry. Yet, he has only himself to blame. If he had studied the Bible as carefully as he claims, why did he have so much trouble understanding the plain words of Matthew 24:36, "No one knows about that day or hour, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father"?

The May 21 prediction in particular attracted a lot of attention including end-of-the-world parties. However, it was the international ridicule that followed his failed predictions that may be the most serious fallout of Camping's foolishness.

All Christians should be prepared for the coming of Jesus at any time. While waiting, we ought to be spreading the Gospel to those around the world who do not yet follow Jesus. This job may have been made a bit more difficult in some cases because of the ridicule following the unfortunate Camping prophecies.

St. Peter, in chapter 2 of his second book, warns against false prophets and their heresies. We do well by sticking to the true prophecies we find in God's Word while we prepare for the real return of Jesus—someday.

—Warren Krug, editor