

Signs of the Times
The Decline of Love

Matt. 24:12

Is this 'love' toward God or toward others?

The context suggests *both*.

1. Toward God – v. 11, 13.

Verse 11 - False prophets: end result, lack of love for God. True of any false religious system.

Verse 13 - "once saved always saved" controversy.

2. Toward each other – v. 10.

- We see this today – the culture of offenses, because of the culture of victimization.
- 2 Tim. 3:1,3 - *In the last day perilous times will come. For men will be... without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good (KJV)*
- "...most people will stop showing their love for each other." NCV

Interesting connection between "lawlessness" and "love growing cold".

- Much of the public discourse today tries to tell us the opposite. We break moral laws in the name of love! (get a divorce, live with someone you're not married to, homosexuality, churches that invalidate scripture by their tradition).
- The results are always the same: love grows cold.
- We need to understand the connection: Lawlessness = Lovelessness!

Also, interesting the word 'cold' is used.

- No matter how big your house, nor successful your career, without people to share it with, 'cold' becomes an accurate description.

Pockets of redemption

- workplace: Kingdom value system (replacing lawlessness); builds trust, security, productivity/success
- families: commitment to marriage, kids who are disciplined and respectful
- Everyone needs love (Abraham Vema; reaching world's ambassadors)

Thermometer or thermostat?