

Reaching a Critical Time!

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When a game reaches the last few minutes of play—there is *not much time left*—so intensity and focus increase. How much more, then, since the world has reached a *critical stage*, should we say: There is *not much time left*! We need to concentrate intensely on God’s *Word* and focus all our attention on living the *Truth* He has given.

Two thousand years ago the words were written Romans 13:12 “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light. 13 Let us walk honestly, as in the day; not in rioting and drunkenness, not in chambering [merciless; cruel] and wantonness [lacking restraint or control], not in strife and envying.*”

The night is now much *more* spent—so there is *not much time* for God to prepare us—changing our attitudes from what they *were* to what they must *be*—to be *ready* for His return. The apostle wanted to be with *Jesus*, but if God wanted him to remain on *earth*, he would live every day in a way that would help others live that *Truth*—before time ran out. He wrote Romans 13:14 “*Put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.*”

He told the Philippians Philippians 1:9 “*And this I pray, that your love may abound yet more and more in knowledge and in all judgment; 10 That ye may approve things that are excellent; that ye may be sincere and without offence till the day of Christ.*” Our love for others must *abound yet more and more* by having a forgiving spirit toward all.

We should *know* what is excellent; be *sincere* for the *Word*; and to walk by faith in God until the *day of Christ* so as to be ready. Philippians 1:11 “*Being filled with the fruits of righteousness, which are by Jesus Christ, unto the glory and praise of God.*” Bearing spiritual *fruit*, is meeting spiritual *lessons*—and responding to them scripturally!

The apostle knew how God wanted him to conduct his life, so he said Philippians 1:21 “*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: 24 Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you.*”

Jesus told his disciples to proclaim the gospel to everyone; Mark 16:15 “*Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.*”

Anyone who really believes in the Lord Jesus and what He accomplished on the Cross for them, would ask to be baptized. Those who did *not* believe in Jesus and would *not* obey the Gospel, would *not* ask to be baptized—and would eventually land in the Lake of Fire—unless they repent.

Disobeying a military commander is called *insubordination*; disobeying the captain of a ship is called *mutiny*; so disobeying the Savior would have to be called *rebellion, betrayal, and treason.*

When we *believe* what God says, and that we will give an *account* of our life to Him—and

maybe sooner than later—we will *live* His Truth more zealously; we would be really *concerned* for those heading toward the flames; and we would *pray* more earnestly for God to *touch* their heart—giving them a *desire* for His Truth—as we are *Reaching a Critical Time!*

Knowing that thousands of people, every day, are plunging into the flames, is a stark reminder for us to take God’s Truth *seriously*, and to live it even *more* seriously by the empowerment of His Spirit—Whom He gives as a gift—if we are *willing* to believe Him. New Testament teaching is so clear, that *no one* should miss the *importance* and the *need* to live by those words—*daily!*

Every *soul* is important to *God*, so every *soul* must be important to *us*. God is *loving* and *merciful*; so we must be *loving* and *merciful* toward everyone. Let us *prove* our sincerity by *praying* for those presently *outside* the will of God. We are to *pray* for others—*not* condemn them, because to *pray* for people 1 Timothy 2:3 “*Is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour; 4 Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.*”

Living by the *Word of God* is planting the seed of *Trust on God*—as we make the journey on the Christian pathway. We may not *know* whose heart we may *touch* in a right way, by our *treating* them in a Christ-like manner. We may not *know* until we reach Heaven and see who is there.

Living the *Word of Truth* is planting the *seed of Truth*—and 1 Corinthians 3:6 “*God gave the increase. 7 So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase.*” God is *certainly* faithful—but are we faithful to *Him* and shining the light of His Truth to people around us—that is the issue!

Matthew 5:16 “*Let your light so shine before men, that*

they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven.”

Since we *know* that this is a *critical time*, we should be more *eager* to *live* the Truth with the time we have *left*—shining the *light* of it to others in the world and asking God to enable that Truth we are living, to help someone who is *not* living it. We must be concerned for those who do *not* know the Truth God has so graciously given to us.

The light of Truth shines, when we *train* children in the ways of the Lord; when we *behave* in a Christ-like way toward people around us; when we *show* kindness and mercy toward someone who needs *both*; and when we show *compassion* toward anyone going through a difficult time.

The Bible says Judges 21:25 “*In those days there was no king in Israel: every man did that which was right in his own eyes.*” The problem is, in their natural condition, no one *knows* what is right. When people do not follow the *Lord*, they follow the *world*—and there will be serious consequences for anyone who insists on doing what *they think* is right in their *own* eyes, rather than what is right in *God’s* eyes!

Every day is an opportunity to ask God to take any *pride out* of our heart. Pride is so deadly that it will lead us to eternal suffering in the Lake of Fire if it is not removed. Proverbs 16:18 “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall.*” *Better it is to be of an humble spirit with the lowly, than to divide the spoil with the proud.*” A proud spirit has taken *millions* to eternal destruction in Hell—the actual number would be beyond counting.

September 11th was a wake-up call for America—people began thinking about *faith* in God, and they became more spiritually *aware* after that attack—with the horrible repercussions of that dreadful time. Not long after, however, all too many soon moved *away* from God, and went

back to their jobs and routines of life without seeing any lasting *change* in their life or their attitudes towards others—except maybe being more *bitter* and *hateful* toward those responsible for the carnage.

Knowing that we are now *reaching a critical time* and that there is *not much time left*, we are compelled to focus our *attention* on really *living* by the instructions in the Bible—asking God in our every prayer, every day, for wisdom and spiritual enlightenment—whether we are sincere in living His Truth or not. Are we *reflecting the light of Christ* by the way we *talk* and *walk* and *treat* others!

An analogy: the moon must be correctly angled toward the sun in relation to the earth, in order for people to *see the light* of the sun *reflecting from* the moon. It is the same with believers in Christ—our life must be in *alignment* with God’s *Word*, in order for people to *see the light* of His Son *reflecting from* us!

When we *read* the Bible and are willing to *obey* what is read—praying for wisdom and living by what we know is the will of God, then, and only then, are we *reflecting* the light of our Lord and Savior onto other people’s lives. **With the time we have left, and as God enables by His Spirit, let us *reflect a forgiving and compassionate and loving attitude toward everyone!***

Something to consider: When a person passes away, we think they are no longer living, but that is not true—actually, they just passed from one place to another; they relocated to a different place. Our soul cannot ever die—just *relocate!* The soul of every person who no longer lives on earth, is either *alive and well*; or *alive in Hell*—one of two—that is it.

We must pray that anyone whom God sees has a willing heart to believe, will hear the Gospel and will accept it as their way of life. It was once

said: *Live every day as if it were your last, and someday you’ll be right!*

From the beginning of our life, the clock counts down, the only thing we do not know is how much time is *left* on the clock. One thing we *do* know for *sure*, the clock *continues* to count—and what are we *doing* with the time we have *left*—is the question.

Each time the clock ticks, we are one second closer to eternity; and one second nearer to Christ’s return. God has warned us to be Ephesians 5:16 “*Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.*” We live in an *evil time* and are compelled to make the *most* of the time we have left.

2 Corinthians 6:2 “*Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.*” Romans 13:12 “*The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.*”

The horrible condition of the world is enough evidence—time is running out! Ephesians 5:17 “*Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is.*” *20 Giving thanks always for all things unto God and the Father in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.*”

We have *Reached a Critical Time!*—now is the time to *repent*; to *forgive* everyone; and to *do* what is required of US Micah 6:8 “*To do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God?*” Now is the time to pray Luke 18:13 “*God be merciful to me a sinner!*”

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