

NOW IS THE TIME

Though many have heard and have uttered the adage, “there’s no time like the present,” there’s no time that is more neglected than the “now.” The Bible teaches that we should be redeemers of time (Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5). Time cannot be placed on “lay -away” and does not offer “rain checks.” If time is to be used, it must be used as it happens. Each moment that passes is one of history that can never be redeemed or used again. It is this fact that should urge us to be excited about right now. Now is the time.

NOW IS THE TIME FOR ACTION, NOT COMPLACENCY

“And it shall come to pass at that time, that I will search Jerusalem with candles, and punish the men that are settled on their lees: that say in their heart, The LORD will not do good, neither will he do evil” (Zep. 1:12).

Those who settle “on their lees” are they who have become satisfied and comfortable with their current condition though there is work left undone. The “lees” are the dregs or refuse of freshly squeezed grape juice. If the lees are left, the juice will ruin. The dregs are to be filtered out. Many today stop working or “sit on their hands,” once they arrive at a comfortable place. They know and teach that God requires us to labor in His vineyard, but by their inaction, their heart is exposed as being far from God. There is much work in the Lord’s Kingdom for us to do. *“Whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men”* (Col. 3:23).

NOW IS THE TIME TO PREPARE FOR ETERNITY

“Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (2 Cor. 6:2).

NOW IS THE TIME TO REACH THE LOST

“Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest” (John 4:35).

NOW IS THE TIME TO STRIVE TO RECOVER THOSE SOULS WHO HAVE FALLEN AWAY

“In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, when ye are gathered together, and my spirit, with the power of our Lord Jesus Christ, To deliver such an one unto Satan for the destruction of the flesh, that the spirit may be saved in the day of the Lord Jesus” (1 Cor. 5:4-5). God is longsuffering (1 Pet. 3:20) and has blessed us with today. We must follow God’s pattern to retrieve those who have left the faith now, while we have time, so that they can return to God and be saved in the end.

NOW IS THE TIME TO STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIPS WITH FAITHFUL BRETHERN IN CHRIST

Fellowship is important and we should cherish the time we spend together. The more time we spend with each other, the stronger the relationships will become. It can be easy to fall into complacency in regard to fellowship. While developing strong relationships with some brethren in the congregation, other relationships are slighted or never even developed. This must not be. *“We, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another”* (Rom. 12:5). We must strive to ensure that all members know one another, care for one another, and know that each cares for the other.

NOW IS THE TIME BECAUSE NOW IS ALL WE HAVE BEEN PROMISED

“Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (Jam. 4:14). Let us redeem the time with which we have been blessed and be as productive as we can in service to the Lord.

Brad Green, Farragut, TN



BELVEDERE BEACON
Ye are the light of the world” (Matthew 5:14)
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535 Clearwater Road, Belvedere, SC 29841-2574
(Greater Augusta, GA area)
SCHEDULE OF SERVICES
SUNDAY: WEDNESDAY:
Bible Classes for all ages 10.00 am. Bible Classes for all ages 7.00 p.m.
Morning Worship 11.00 am.
Evening Worship 6.00 p.m.
EVANGELIST: Ken Chumbley - Tel. No. (803) -279-8663
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WHAT COSTS ME NOTHING

After David had been told by God to build an altar and worship God on the threshing floor of Araunah, this Jebusite offered the king the threshing floor and everything necessary to worship God. David refused the offer with these words: *“Nay, but I will verily buy it of thee at a price: neither will I offer burnt-offerings unto Jehovah my God which cost me nothing”* (2 Sam. 24:24).

Would that all Christians had the attitude of David. Instead, they often show the very opposite disposition. David realized that an offering which cost him nothing was worth exactly that to him—nothing. God has always demanded the best that a person has—not what somebody else has (Lev. 22:21).

All we have has been given to us by God to use for His glory and in His service. We are but stewards of these things (1 Pet. 4:10). The Lord expects us to be good stewards, but giving what comes without cost to us is not practicing faithful stewardship. The measure of our devotion, reverence, and love for God is in direct proportion to how much we are willing to commit to the service of God, or how much we are willing to sacrifice (cf. John 12:3ff). Those who take the easiest, cheapest way to serve God are, in reality, servants of self, not God.

There is to be nothing cheap about our religion. It is to be the best we have—the same attitude that characterized David. *“I will not offer... unto Jehovah my God [that] which cost me nothing.”*

Al Brown
-Deceased

The Beatitudes of Revelation

“Blessed *is* he that readeth, and they that hear the words of this prophecy, and keep those things which are written therein: for the time *is* at hand” (Rev. 1:3). Do we read, study, hear, and keep what is written in the Bible?

“And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed *are* the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them” (14:13). If you died in your present condition, which is possible, could this be said of you? “Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed *is* he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame” (16:15). Are you keeping your garments spotless by a faithful and godly life? Is your life characterized by watchfulness? “Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed *is* willing, but the flesh *is* weak” (Mat. 26:41).

“And he saith unto me, Write, Blessed *are* they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb. And he saith unto me, These are the true sayings of God” (Rev. 19:9). When Christ comes to be united in Heaven with His holy bride, the church, will you be invited to the marriage supper, because you have lived a faithful life as a member of His church?

“Blessed and holy *is* he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years” (20:6). As one who has been risen with Christ in baptism (Rom. 6:4), have you been faithful through trials, like those described here.

“Behold, I come quickly: blessed *is* he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (Rev. 22:7). Are you a blessed keeper of God’s Word, and hence ready for the Lord’s sudden coming?

“Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city” (22:14). Will you be granted entrance into Heaven, because you are one who does the will of the Lord? If so, you will live eternally and not die, as the “tree of life” symbolizes. Jesus said: “If ye love me, keep my commandments” (John 14:15). Friends, if we do the things outlined in these beatitudes, then we have great reason for great joy and happiness due to our blessed relationship with God and the blessings that belong to us!

Danny Douglas, Mount Pleasant, TN

Ken Chumbley

NEWS AND NOTES

Keep in your prayers the following: Helen Culpepper, Pam Gossett, Lavonne McClish, Linda Chumbley, and Rachel Fitzpatrick’s aunt (Eula Baker) who has cancer, Maomi Aaron’ sister who is having health problems, Myrtle Grimsley, Lanny Niver together with his daughter, and Tim Smith. Justine Hall’s husband, Joe, was taken to the emergency room last weekend as a result of bleeding. However, he is doing fine now.

We will have a cookout on June 27 – Hamburgers, hot dogs and trimmings. Also on July 11 we will have a low country boil. Mark these dates on your calendar and plan to participate.

Paul uses the word “rejoice” 10 times in the book of Philippians, 1:18 (2); 2:16, 17, 18, 28, 3:1, 3; 4:4 (2). The word “rejoiced” is used once, 4:10, and the word “rejoicing” is used once, 1:26. This might seem strange that a man in prison would place this much emphasis on this idea. But, it was not for Paul, for Paul it was a time of rejoicing for what was being accomplished by his imprisonment. Paul wrote, “But I would ye should understand, brethren, that the things which happened unto me have fallen out rather unto the furtherance of the gospel; So that my bonds in Christ are manifest in all the palace, and in all other places; And many of the brethren in the Lord, waxing confident by my bonds, are much more bold to speak the word without fear” (Philippians 1:12-14).

Paul could rejoice, no matter where he was, for he knew that rejoicing is found in Christ, “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4). One such example of Paul’s rejoicing is found in Acts 16. A damsel, that was “possessed with a spirit of divination,” followed Paul, crying out “...saying, These men are the servants of the most high God, which shew unto us the way of salvation” (Acts 16:17). This grieved Paul and so Paul commanded the spirit to come out of the woman; the spirit came out. This made her “masters” angry, and they accused “Paul and us” of teaching unlawful customs. Because of this, “the multitude rose up together against them: and the magistrates rent off their clothes, and commanded to beat them. And when they had laid many stripes upon them, they cast them into prison, charging the jailor to keep them safely: Who, having received such a charge, thrust them into the inner prison, and made their feet fast in the stocks” (Acts 16:22-24). It was not anger coming from behind the prison bars, nor was it shouts of retribution, insults, or filth communications. Luke tells us what was coming from behind those prison bars, “And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them” (Acts 16:25). Paul knew what he was talking about when he wrote, “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4).

Beloved, Paul wanted people to rejoice, rejoice in the Lord. We are troubled by many things in this world. Our nation is going to the devil; our dollars are being devalued. Religion is a farce; even some in the Lord’s church are walking in the way of the world, leading others in their path. Thus far, in our country, we are not facing the world of Paul; that may come, though. However, we are in a world when we need to remember to be faithful to our Lord, and no matter the situation, we can, “Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice” (Philippians 4:4)

Beloved, Jesus said, “My mother and my brethren are these which hear the word of God, and do it” (Luke 8:21). May all of us “hear” and “do” God’s word.

Jim’s Weekly Gems, 05/27/2009, Jimmie Z. Gribble, Portsmouth, VA