

“Now is the time!”

Written March of 2010

Scripture Reading: John 3:16, 17

Introduction

Good Morning Brothers and Sisters and Blessings to you. I am very grateful for the invitation today to come and bring this Message to you. The enemy did everything possible to derail me from being here today; but I believe it's because there are people here that must hear the words God has chosen for you this day. Praise God that the Blood of Christ assures us the VICTORY! With the help of the Holy Spirit and through this Message we shall understand what today's title implies. Let's bow our heads in prayer so that we may invite the Holy Spirit to prepare the soil, for the seeds of the Kingdom that will be planted today.

Sermon

We are going to begin today with a brief exercise. This is based off of an email that circulated a while back. I am going to describe something to you, and I want to see if anyone can guess what I am describing...

Exercise: This item has: a wealth of information, sometimes people marvel at what this item can do and say it must have been inspired by brilliant minds, we never leave it at home, never forget it, we feel lost without it when we forget it, it's our life line through life's emergencies, we always rely on it, we tell people about this item when asked about it, we sometimes talk to perfect strangers about this item. In fact, I know of a lot of people who can't live without this item; their life revolves around this item.

Can you guess what this item is, anyone? There were a few answers saying that it was the Bible; but unfortunately, it's not your Bible as some of you guessed. It's your **CELL PHONE**.

Here's an interesting statistic. 90% of our Youth between the ages of 15-25 fit into this scenario that I have just illustrated to you. Brethren, that's nine out of every ten Teenagers and Young Adults; this is a startling number. 90% of Youth and Young Adults treat their Cell Phones this way and their Bible is at the bottom of their list of priorities on a daily basis. I think there are a lot of adults that fall into this category as well but this statistic only spoke of our youth (*Acquirethefire.com*).

“My Dear Brother's and Sister's, can you imagine what would happen if we treated our Bibles like we treat our Cell phone's???”

- What if we carried our Bible's in our pocket and purse all the time?
- What if we looked at it throughout the day?
- What if we never forgot it at home, at the office or at work?
- What if we used it to send little messages to our friends?
- What if we couldn't live without it?
- What if we bought a Bible for our youth to reference instead of a new iPhone or the internet?
- What if we picked it up during the emergencies and crisis times of our lives?

Brethren: What IF the Bible became the ONLY LIFELINE to all of us, young and old. In contrast to a Cell Phone, the Bible never loses its signal. With the Bible you don't have to worry about credit check or paying the bill; because Jesus Christ has already paid the debt in full, and His credit is everlasting (*has no bounds or end*). The Bible has the best **GPS** (*God Positioning System*).

In the Bible you have emergency numbers already on speed dial:

- When you're in danger...Dial: **Psalm 91:1,2** (*the real "911"*)
- When you feel threatened by a weapon...Dial: **Isaiah 54:17**
- If you're worried and your heart is troubled...Dial: **John 14**
- If you lack strength...Dial: **Philippians 4:13**
- If you feel weak...Dial: **II Corinthians 12:9, 10**
- If you doubt whether or not you can make it through a test or trial... Dial: **I Corinthians 10:13**
- If you aren't sure if things will work out...Dial: **Romans 8:28**
- When you feel tired and exhausted...Dial: **Matthew 11:28-30**
- Need directions to get to your destination...Dial: **Proverbs 3:5, 6**

"Through the Bible we have the opportunity to Magnify our God; not our problems, tests, trials and tribulations."

Here's another statistic: Currently (*in 2010*) 35% of the Baby Boomer generation (*40-55 years of age*) are practicing Believer's (*attend church on a regular basis*) in Jesus Christ. It is forecasted that within the next (10) years the Generation "X" (*26-39 years of age*) and this current generation (*Millennials*), that only 4% will be Believer's in Jesus Christ. Only 4% of our youth will be attending and involved in church on a regular and consistent basis. That is four out of every one hundred young people. **Where are our youth and young adults going in our churches? What if we realized "NOW IS THE TIME"!**

Brethren now is the time to wake up and see the signs of the times. The enemy (*satan*) has held us captive long enough. He has blinded us with not only technology but theology (*religion*) as well. **There are close to 38,000 Christian denominations in the entire world today.** The enemy knows his time is short and he is using whatever, whichever and whomever possible to derail us and take us off the path of Eternal Life. Our eyes **MUST** be set on Christ Jesus and the Gospel of the Kingdom, which He expects every True Follower to live and teach by. **The only Truth there is, and the only Truth we can truly rely on is Jesus Christ. We must put our faith in His Love, not Tradition or Theology.**

We have given the enemy power over our lives, by not seeing the Authority we have in Christ Jesus; The Authority His Blood has given us. We have the Awesome Power of God at our disposal; the same power that spoke the world into existence is available to us. As it tells us in: **Revelations 3:20**, Christ is just waiting for us to open the Door to our hearts and invite Him in. Yet we rely more on cell phones, internet and the false securities this World offers.

Beloved **"Don't conform yourselves with the things of this World"** **Romans 12:2.** You can keep chasing the things of this World Brethren; but I can attest/tell you from my own experience it's all an illusion satan uses to derail you and take you away from the Gospel of the Kingdom.

We were all created and designed to worship something. Some people worship their possessions like: cars, houses, cell phones, laptops, clothes, jewelry. Some people worship their jobs, they want to keep moving up that corporate ladder, keep getting promoted to the next position of authority (*supervisor, manager, VP*), so that they make more money. **Isn't it interesting that those same people are never late to work; yet somehow, they are always late to Church?**

Satan has twisted up our priorities; it seems that we are doing the opposite of what **Matthew 6:33** tells us:

“Seek first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you” NKJ

Beloved we are seeking first the World, Religion and Traditions and then trying to achieve our additions, our abundance by relying on flawed Earthly systems instead of relying on God and His abundance. **What's the first thing on your mind when you wake up in the morning, honestly answer that question?** Is it work, bills, wife and kids...if it's not God or the things of God, then our priorities are mixed up?

Christ said in: **Matthew 6:21** ***“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”*** NKJ Some of us have gotten so caught up in the things of this world that somehow / somehow we have lost sight of the Sacrifice that Jesus Christ made for us.

Please let's turn back to our Scripture Reading found in: **John 3:16, 17.** ***“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. 17 God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him.”*** NLT

How have so many of us lost sight of the infinite LOVE God showed us through this awesome Gift. **Members of the Body of Christ: how have some people put Rules, Customs and Regulations above the LOVE of God?**

I implore you not to judge those who we perceive that are different from us but accept them with their flaws as Christ did and would. There are so many people hungry to learn of Christ, so many people needing to know of the Love of God. It is our Mandate as Christians to set them truly free.

“It is a lack of God's Love that has brought the World to this point of Moral Decay”

Now is the Time for us to stop playing church and be (*individually*) the Church who truly represents the Gospel of the Kingdom. It is time for us to be the Generation of Born Again Christians who live and work out of the Authority of Christ Jesus. Now is the Time for us to become the **True Body of Christ** that God needs so that we can usher in the Second Coming of our Lord.

Look at the times we live in dear Brother's and Sister's, visitors and young people. There is nothing in this World that can give us an assurance of tomorrow. But Christ offers us Eternity, if we take a Step of Faith towards Him; and if we invite the Holy Spirit to convert us into Citizens of the Kingdom by being Born Again. It is the only way that we can be Partakers of the Divine Nature in Christ Jesus.

Look at all the Disciples of Christ they were far from perfect, most uneducated and with a lot of the same flaws and weaknesses we struggle with; yet they all decided to take a step of Faith towards Christ. **When Christ called to them and said, "follow me" they understood that "Now was the time". Many like Peter took that step of Faith even further. Let us see this example with this small video clip of Peter walking on water.**

***Play Video Clip Peter walking on the water.**

I love this story so much because it shows us if we keep our eyes set on Christ we can do Supernatural things, we can do the impossible in human eyes. It also shows us what can happen when we take our eyes off of Christ. Through the Power of the Holy Spirit, impetuous, ill-tempered Peter was transformed and converted into the Rock of the early church. The sons of thunder James and John were converted into leaders of the early church. John, who probably had the worst temper out of all of them, was the Disciple that Jesus loved. Also, the same Disciple that Jesus entrusted the person He valued most on Earth, his mother Mary, because in John's heart was encompassed the LOVE of Christ.

Let me give you an example in our century. Does anyone know who Albert Nobel is? He is the person credited with discovering the chemical elements for dynamite TNT. He sold this formula to many different countries and made millions; and those countries built missiles and bombs with that technology, to help fight wars and create massive destruction. Towards the end of his life he was reading the newspaper and to his surprise they somehow had misspelled another person's name that had died and put his name.

He read his own obituary which summed up said: "Albert Nobel: Father of Death and creator of the TNT." At that moment he believed that he must change his legacy, change the direction his life had come to. He asks God what he could do, and the following day he placed all of his millions into a trust fund called the Nobel Peace Prize. It is a million-dollar Prize given to anyone who helps the World by promoting Peace or for an innovation that will help Mankind globally. Almost everyone has heard of the Nobel Peace Prize and remembers Albert Nobel for that contribution in history, not TNT.

Let Christ Jesus change the direction you have been traveling through, let the conversion Power of the Holy Spirit change who you have become. Christ says: "Come as You are", let Him do the work in you.

Romans 3:23 "For we all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God"
NKJ

It doesn't matter what you have done in the past, all God wants for you to do is accept the Gift of Salvation through His Son Jesus Christ.

God has the Power to change the direction of your life, and He has the Power to change the priorities in your life. The Holy Spirit will help you focus your time and energy into what is important and what really matters, which is Living for God and to Glorify His Kingdom. Enter into Discipleship with Christ, not religion with Christ (*which will eventually leave you void*). Christ's true Strength and Power source was His Relationship (*connection*) with God (*His Father*).

"NOW IS THE TIME"

In Closing

I am reminded of the story of Mary found in Mark chapter 14. She was criticized for pouring a whole alabaster box of ointment of spikenard, worth an entire year of wages, and poured it onto Jesus' feet and anointed them and then wiped it with her hair. I just imagine Mary with tears in her eyes; for the love she had for her Master was great. **She realized something so important that "Now was the time"**. She knew that Jesus' time had come as it states in **Verse 8**. **She didn't dare wait till tomorrow to honor Him, she told herself I have a chance right here, right now, in the midst of all the critics, to honor Christ, I DON'T KNOW IF TOMORROW WILL COME; but one thing she did know "NOW WAS THE TIME"**. Now is the time to seek a Relationship with Christ and NOT religion with Christ. Invite His Spirit to dwell in you.

As Isaiah 55:6 says:

"Seek the Lord while you can find him. Call on him now while he is near."

How many of us feel like the thief on the Cross; that after all he witnessed of Christ's torture; and yet Christ still remained Pure and Loving. He heard Christ's prayer to ***"forgive them for they know not what they do."*** At that moment the Holy Spirit opened his eyes to see the Lamb of God slaughtered for our sins. He realized that **NOW WAS THE TIME**. Now was the time to accept the free Gift of Salvation. Though he lived a life not worthy of such a Gift, he was suffering the consequences of his life by his death on a cross; yet he received the revelation of God's Grace and Mercy, when Christ told him: ***"today you will be with me in Paradise"***. Know now brethren that God is telling you wait no longer!

Altar Call

As the song plays **"Worthy is the Lamb"** I am challenging you today to take a step towards Christ. Tomorrow may never come. **God isn't waiting for you to be perfect or look a certain way. He is just waiting for you to acknowledge that you're not perfect, you're weak, and you've been traveling in the wrong direction. Say here I am Just as I am, broken and empty. Recognize that an empty religion will not bring you truly into the Kingdom.**

Friends that is all God wants from us, and He will fill us with His Grace, His Forgiveness, His Love, His Peace, His Joy and with the abundance of Heaven. As the song plays if you are moved to come forward; if you are a Member of the Body of Christ and you want to refocus your Christianity back to the foundation, which is the Love of Christ, please come forward. **Don't delay, don't wait, FOR NOW IS THE TIME to accept the free gift and be Free.**