

The Time Will Come

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II Timothy 4:1-4

I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom; preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Paul was exhorting Timothy to always be ready to preach the Word of God. This is what people need to hear in this day, paying heed to what God has to say in His Word. Those who reject the Word of God are rejecting Him, turning away from the faith.

The Word of God needs to be preached as it is written, not adding or taking anything from it. Paul says people will turn away from truth to fables.

When you are listening to the Word of God being preached, you need to look in your Bible to be sure that what they are saying is true according to the Word. There are consequences when one adds or takes away from the Word.

Adding and Subtracting

Revelation 22:18,19

For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: and if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

This is speaking of the Word of God, the Scriptures. Some versions of the Bible remove any mention of the virgin birth and of the Blood of Christ. We have to be very careful that we're not guilty of taking away from the Scriptures, or of adding unto what God has said—and of listening to someone who does this.

II Peter 1:20,21

Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the

prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost.

We cannot add any private interpretation to the Word, twisting it to fit what we want it to say. Those who do this do not want to admit they're wrong. God is the author of the Scriptures, and we want to be sure we receive it just as He said—neither adding to it nor subtracting from it.

There are many man-made doctrines that do not go along in agreement with God's Word. This is something we want to be sure we are not deceived by, not accepting any doctrine that is contrary to the truths of the Word.

Proverbs 19:27

Cease, my son, to hear the instruction that causeth to err from the words of knowledge.

One of these doctrines is known as eternal security. We can be eternally secure when we have gotten saved and are living in obedience to the Word—doing what God has commanded us to do, and not doing what He commanded us not to do.

The man-made doctrine known as eternal security teaches and preaches that all one has to do is call on the name of the Lord, asking him to save you—and then you can go on and live any way you want and still make eternal life. That is absolutely wrong and contrary to the Word of God.

Security vs. Sanctification

Hebrews 3:6

But Christ as a son over His own house; whose house are we, if we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end.

IF! If we hold fast the confidence and the rejoicing of the hope firm unto the end. Our confidence is our saving faith.

We must not live in sin if we want eternal life. It's up to us. We should live ready at all times for Jesus' return. We can't pick Scriptures out of context that say what we want them to say.

Colossians 1:22,23

In the body of His flesh through death, to present you holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight: if ye continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel, which ye have heard, and which was preached to every creature which is under heaven; whereof I Paul am made a minister

IF! If you continue in the faith grounded and settled, and be not moved away from the hope of the gospel. Paul warns not to be moved away from the hope of the gospel. Jesus wants to present us holy and unblameable and unproveable in His sight. This is what He will do—but

we have to do our part, continuing in the faith, grounded and settled. This is what we must do if we want eternal life: continue in the faith, not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

We should be grounded and settled in our faith, where we are not uprooted by every wind of doctrine that comes along.

II Timothy 4:2-4

Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine. For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.

Paul was instructing Timothy to preach sound doctrine. This is so important, for many will not endure sound doctrine, turning their ears away from the truth. They run from teacher to teacher, to those who will preach what they want to hear to satisfy their own lusts. They want someone who will pat them on the head, telling them that God understands that they're just human.

They don't want to hear that they need to get their lives straightened out, that what they're doing is wrong and sinful and will keep them from having eternal life.

Departing from the Faith

I Timothy 4:1,2

Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the latter times some shall depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits, and doctrines of devils; speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron

The latter times is the period of time between the time Jesus came the first time, and when He comes the second time. In II Timothy we were told many would turn from the truth unto fables (things that are not truth, but are fiction). They will depart from the faith and give heed to seducing spirits (spirits that deceive) and doctrines of devils.

The doctrine of eternal security is a doctrine of devils, saying that one can live any way they want to after they get saved, and gain eternal life. If this were true, why is there so much in the Word of God that tells us just the opposite? Why does the Word tell us to forsake sin, and walk in obedience to the commandments of God?

I Peter 3:1-6

This second epistle, beloved, I now write unto you; in both which I stir up your pure minds by way of remembrance: that ye may be mindful of the words which were spoken before by the holy prophets, and of the commandment of us the apostles of the Lord and Saviour: knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of His coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation. For this they willingly are ignorant of, that by

the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of the water and in the water: whereby the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished

The scoffers, who walk after their own lusts, say, "Where is the promise of His coming?" Things haven't changed, all continues as it has been since the beginning.

They are willingly ignorant of the Word of God. Don't be deceived, as God destroyed the earth in Noah's day with a water judgment, there is a fire judgment coming:

II Peter 3:7,8

But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.

We cannot live a life of sin and expect God to take us home. We cannot be eternally secure living in sin. Make sure you're ready. If you want eternal life you cannot allow sin in your life. If you happen to sin, you need to go right to God, asking Him to forgive you, and to give you the victory.

I John 1:9

If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If we're not on guard, we can fall from our steadfastness. This will be true of many because they are listening to too many voices, and not taking time to search the Scriptures for themselves to be sure that what is being preached is from the Word. "Though He were a Son, yet learned He obedience by the things which He suffered; and being made perfect, He became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him."

We must obey the Lord, keeping His commandments. Eternal salvation is for all that obey Him. But not everyone who professes to be saved is obeying the Lord.

Light vs. Darkness

Matthew 7:21-23

Not every one that saith unto Me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of My Father which is in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name? and in Thy name have cast out devils? and in Thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from Me, ye that work iniquity.

Those who profess to know the Lord, but do not the will of His Father, will not enter into eternal life. When He speaks in His Word to us to tell us not to do something—don't do it. And when He speaks to do something—don't hold back from obedience.

Don't hold back! Don't give in to temptation and sin. That's disobedience. And you won't make it into heaven if you are living like that.

James 5:19,20

Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins.

We see here where it is possible for someone who is in the faith to err from the truth, from obeying God's Word. We also see where it is possible for them to repent of the error of their way and come back to the Lord, and be saved from eternal damnation.

Luke 11:35

Take heed therefore that the light which is in thee be not darkness.

Darkness is evil. Are you going to go your own way, feeling that you're eternally secure because you have called on the Lord to save you? Absolutely not!

Proverbs 2:13

Who leave the paths of uprightness, to walk in the ways of darkness

We need to be on guard that Satan lest deceive us:

I Peter 5:8,9

Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour: whom resist stedfast in the faith, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in your brethren that are in the world.

Doctrine vs. Lies

Now, I Timothy 4 speaks of other false doctrines:

I Timothy 4:2-5

Speaking lies in hypocrisy; having their conscience seared with a hot iron; forbidding to marry, and commanding to abstain from meats, which God hath created to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer.

There are those groups who break up the marriages of those who join them; and there are other groups who forbid their ministers to marry. But this is against God's Word, for God instituted

marriage between a man and a woman. Those who forbid marriage according to the Word of God cause many to fall into sexual sins.

Then there are those who have a doctrine of forbidding meats. This is contrary to the Scriptures, as we saw in Timothy. God created meat to be received with thanksgiving of them which believe and know the truth. "For every creature of God is good, and nothing to be refused, if it be received with thanksgiving: for it is sanctified by the word of God and prayer." Those who follow this doctrine of forbidding meats believe a lie, a man-made doctrine.

It's all right if one chooses to eat vegetables, but not to make a doctrine that forbids the eating of meats.

Now, those who follow false doctrines can be very argumentative; but we should be careful not to argue with them.

II Peter 3:17,18

Ye therefore, beloved, seeing ye know these things before, beware lest ye also, being led away with the error of the wicked, fall from your own stedfastness. But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

I Peter 1:9

Receiving the end of your faith, even the salvation of your souls.

A total daily consecration makes the difference, a total commitment to Christ. We've got to live according to the Word of God. This is when we can truly be eternally secure.