

# TIME IS ALMOST UP THE END IS NEAR

## HAS AMERICA HEARD GOD'S LAST ALTAR CALL?

*"Because I have called, and ye refused; I have stretched out my hand, and no man regarded; But ye have set at nought all my counsel, and would none of my reproof: I also will laugh at your calamity; I will mock when your fear cometh; When your fear cometh as desolation, and your destruction cometh as a whirlwind; when distress and anguish cometh upon you. Then shall they call upon me, but I will not answer; they shall seek me early, but they shall not find me: For that they hated knowledge, and did not choose the fear of the LORD: They would none of my counsel: they despised all my reproof. Therefore, shall they eat of the fruit of their own way, and be filled with their own devices. For the turning away of the simple shall slay them, and the prosperity of fools shall destroy them. But whoso hearkeneth unto me shall dwell safely, and shall be quiet from fear of evil." Prov. 1:24-33*

*By Pastor Del Wray*

Today in our churches, in many of our pulpits and in many of our congregations God may have made His last altar call? His final invitation and perhaps, even His last invitation for America to come back to God. Individual churches may continue to invite lost souls to come to Christ but without the Holy Spirit's presence, all is in vain. Services without God's Spirit are common place in our churches today. No way am I suggesting that God does not save in our day, yet the Scripture plainly teaches that His Spirit "will not always strive with man." The upcoming election may well produce America's final stand and the chance for her to turn back to God. Our leaders both administratively and spiritually have turned this nation away from God and the pulpits have followed suit; pastors and preachers alike toning down their messages in appeasement where the plea of God cannot be heard. Even Baptist's are changing preaching services for singing programs, where the Word of God is only sparingly used. Pastor's exchanging the power of preaching God's Word for inspirational entertainment. No longer do people need any more to repent or be convicted of sin just as long as they hear some little message that tickles the ear and quiet the conscience, they are contented. Let a preacher come along and preach hard on sin and he's no longer welcome.

*"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will let him take the water of life freely." Rev. 22:17*

Is the Word of God written in your heart?

*"This is the covenant that I will make with them after those days, saith the Lord, I will put my laws into their hearts, and in their minds will I write them;" Heb. 10:16*

*"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the Promise of the Spirit through faith." Gal. 3:14*

God's final invitation, God's last altar call is now ominous for America and I'm heart-broken with tears and sorry to say even for the individual as the Church age draws to a close. Greed and theft are the work of human nature and it goes on every moment of every day amongst human kind and across this sin-cursed world. I speak not of the taking of someone else's property but of stealing the "words of life" from lost souls. The main battleground is itself the church altar, the pulpits and the congregants themselves. Thievery, stealing God's "Plan of Salvation" converting, changing, subverting, counterfeiting, adding to or subtracting from is, all the same, perverting the gospel of the grace of God in His Son, Jesus Christ. Millions of souls every day are being robbed in and of themselves of the free gift of God, as the world turns its back on the Grace of God more and more each day. Since the "Council of Trinity" before the worlds were even created God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit designed the plan by which they would redeem fallen man from Sin. Ever since, Satan's ultimate aim has been to thwart God's Plan and Purpose through the Seven Dispensational Periods. Number Six about to end and the Seventh Millennial" or "Kingdom" Period, at least, seven years forward. Eternal life being offered as a free gift with no strings attached, unconditional forgiveness offered just simply by taking God at His Word through faith.

Men with men seducing one another from the "Pure Grace of God" for a morsel of Ecclesiastical teaching, Arminianism or Antinomianism, supplanting the Words of God. On one side we have the Armenian espousing the efficacy of man, self-effort and on the other the Antinomian who teaches the acceptance of Christ without repentance, living any way one pleases. Both are just as deadly, religiously deceitful and damning. While between these two false teachings stands the pure unadulterated "free gift" of God "GRACE," sovereign "GRACE" of God alone. Church after church is teaching the error of man refusing to believe God, refusing to take God at His Word. Men denying and hating God, hating His Word refusing to place himself under the authority of a Supreme Creator, becoming his own god, thinking he can replace the very Words of God with his own translations, publishing his own thoughts "*...my thoughts are not your thoughts,*" Isa. 55:8. Dealing him a suicidal blow believing he will bring in the Kingdom without Jesus Christ. "*The fool has said in his heart there is no God,*" Psalms 14:1. He is lost without hope in this world and the world to come. Stooping so low as to displace Jesus and His work on Calvary for the rudiments of the earth as an offering to God, the work of "Cain" way back in Genesis, Cain offered the fruit of the ground, man being a fruit of the ground himself, again offering himself. Isn't it strange how man is always trying to assist God when it comes to the salvation of his own soul? The man is lost, dead, helpless, it is impossible for man to do anything that is acceptable to God to pay for his SIN problem, the drowning man rescuing himself, how ridiculous? God never saves a man on his own terms, he's either saved on God's terms or he's not saved at all.

The man just can't get it, there is nothing anyone can do, not if you believe the Bible and you know me. The best person that has ever lived would go to hell without Jesus Christ. A pastor the other day suggested that "repentance" meant to stop sinning. If he could stop and he can't, to stop sinning still would not save him, in that case, it becomes a work of the flesh "reformation" and man is not saved by his works, Titus 3:5. Salvation is entirely the work of God! Yet, man's fallen nature is so evil that the Apostle had to constantly warn his listeners of this fact. Millions of people today are in false religions, therapy, twelve-step programs, fraternal lodges and

community organizations of all kinds trying to fill the void that comes with being lost, without Christ and without hope in the world Eph. 2:12. Hell must continually enlarge itself to accommodate the souls that die in their delusions. The Apostle Paul warned of the depth of sin to which human nature had taken a man and throughout Scripture, God uses Covenants to show His plan in reconciling lost souls, Covenants Old, and New in reconciling His creation. Read Ezekiel, 36:

The Old Covenant left men to the exercise of their own strength. The New is the effectual sanctification by the Holy Spirit. Ezek. 36:25-27:

*"Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you. A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you, and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you a heart of flesh. And I will put my Spirit within you, and cause you to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them."*

The crowning work of God is the implantation of God's Son "the WORD" in the hearts of men, the Written Word on their minds. The climax of God's work is "Jesus Christ in man" by the renewing of His Spirit the Holy Ghost in you; Titus 3:5, "...if any man hath not the Spirit of Christ he is none of His..." Romans 8, I need not quote the numerous promises which sustain this point. But here let me say that this is one of the grand distinctions between the Old and New Covenants, that the New Covenant is the effectual indwelling of the Holy Spirit, producing the very temper required by the law, or Old Covenant. There is a grand and mighty difference between the Old and New Covenants in this respect, and let it be forever understood, that the difference does not lie merely, or mainly in the fact that the New Covenant is a fuller revelation than the Old, which brings me to say, the Old was a mere outward covenant, written upon tables of stone, the mere "letter that killeth." The New is an inward covenant. It is the indwelling of the Spirit of God, "Jesus in man," **writing the law in the heart**, begetting and maintaining the very obedience required by the Old Covenant. If this is overlooked, the New Covenant is thrown away. And herein is the great error of the Church, that they make the Old and New Covenants substantially the same thing, while, in fact, the Old Covenant was the mere requirement of that of which the New Covenant is the fulfillment, by the indwelling and effectual influences of the Spirit of God.

God's Crowning work is Christ in the believer.

*"For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear; but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, whereby we cry, Abba, Father. The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God: And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together. Rom. 8:15-17*

Have you ever had the Spirit of Christ testify to your spirit? If not, it is the climax of the Christian's life. The Holy Ghost surrounds you smothering you with great love, fear and with a mighty wind causing you to cry out "Abba, Father." If I would write here of my experience when God's Spirit testified to my spirit you would claim me mad, just let me cry out that it is one of God's children's greatest and most fearful blessings. Jesus said, *"And ye shall seek me, and find me when ye shall search for me with all your heart"* Jer. 29:13. Let me say further,

*“When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon, and the stars, which thou hast ordained; what is man, that thou art mindful of him? And the son of man, that thou visitest him? For thou, hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour.”* Psalms 8:3-5

God created the whole Universe, everything that we see, and last of all he created man. The man is special and is the crown of God's creation, in other words, Man is the crowning work of God's creation. That's not a statement of self-importance, but that's a statement of fact. The Bible says,

*“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”* Ephesians 2:10

In the creation account in Genesis verses, one and two, the creation of humanity is shown as the high point of God's creation. And the implication is the profound value of human life. In a culture that tends to demonize people who don't look like us or dress like us, or are as civilized as we, or speak like we do and at times have a tendency to demoralize them. We need to begin with the Bible and see all humans as God does and to see man as God does. As man bears the image of God, he reveals and unveils something about the character and nature of God as we bear His image. And let me emphasize God values human life and so we must!

The man is the Crown of Creation because he is only created being made in the “image” and “likeness” of God and, therefore, uniquely distinct in his existence. No other creature is like a man; he is one of a kind. The only man has been “*crowned with glory and honor*” Ps. 8:5. In Genesis Chapter one and in verse twenty-six, we see the “Counsel of the Trinity” that took place before the Universe and the worlds were created and man was of the dust of the ground. Human beings were created, verse twenty-six: *“Then God said let us make man in our image, in our likeness....”* God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit considered together men being created, and man became a living soul. As I've said many times before there are twenty-eight minerals and elements that make up the human body and all twenty-eight are found in the dirt of the ground. Innocence having been tested the fall took place and the image of God was marred and the whole of creation was thrown into convulsion and sin took rule. God had to start all over again instead of choosing not to deal with a man again by wiping all traces of human beings off the earth. His Holiness at stake He righteously could have done so. He chose rather redeeming fallen man from his lost estate, his sinful condition, by only one way and that one way is by “**Writing the Word in the heart.**” His method chosen became the Crowning Work of God in the implantation of God's Son “the Word” in the hearts of men, and His Written Word on their minds. In John five Jesus said,

“Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me.” John 5:9

We must get that folks, too many people in our churches are ill-informed. Eternal life is in Jesus Christ **Alone**. One is not saved because he carries a King James Bible and you should. Neither is he saved by reading the Bible and you should, nor is a person saved by believing what he reads. Certainly, we must believe the Bible but salvation takes place only when the Word of God and

the Holy Spirit germinate and produce a seed and that seed is “Christ in you the hope of glory.” It is the presence of Christ in your life! Look at what Paul the Apostle said in Romans Chapter Five,

*“For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be **saved by his life**. Rom. 5:10*

Again listen to Paul in his Second letter to the Church at Corinth:

*“Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye, not your own selves, how that **Jesus Christ is in you**, except ye be reprobates?” 2 Cor. 13:5*

It is only God that knows the heart of man, “*searches the hearts of men*” Jer. 17:10. The new birth is the work of God and not because we carry, read or believe and again we should do all these things, He knows the real condition of every man’s heart “*deceitful above all things and desperately wicked*” He knows whether our motives and attitudes are correct or not, 2 Cor. 5:10. The new birth is as real as our first physical birth. He alone moves into the heart. It is absolutely all His doing. It is His work and He offers to do it freely, “...but the gift of God is eternal life...” Rom. 6:23 for all those who turn to Him. Thus in regeneration, Titus 3:5, God’s Salvation’s Plan is a gift, a free gift received in faith through God’s “Writing of His Word” upon the heart of man. Salvation is not being from the efforts of men but is by the implanting of God’s Spirit in the hearts of men, Rom. 8:9, writing His Word on their hearts, their minds. Salvation is altogether by the Grace of God alone. And without the Word of God, it is impossible, 1 Pet. 1:23. Watch out for these buzzards, “these birds of the air” that go into their pulpits and don’t lift up the Word of God!

*“Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began.” 2 Timothy 1:9.*

My friends remember that it is not my objective to preach from a Bible which is most popular or most pleasant, nor do I desire to set forth the views of any one person that may read this sermon; my one aim is to give what I judge to be the meaning of the above verse. Perhaps I shall probably deliver a message which many of you will not like, and if you should not like it I shall not be at all surprised, or even if you should be upset and angry I shall not be at all alarmed, because I never understood that I was supposed to preach what would please my hearers, nor was it expected to be sensible, not for me to say gracious things, to shape my views to suit the notions of my readers or hearers. I count myself agreeable to God and to the text; and if I give the meaning of the verse, I believe I shall give the mind of God, and I shall be likely to have His favor which will be sufficient for me, contradict me if you may. However, let every sincere mind be willing to receive the truth of God if it is clearly in the Inspired Word. After what has already been said let me give you the meat of my message. Look at 2 Tim. 1:9 again,

*“Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began.”*

The Apostle Paul here is stating his doctrine in the following words, “Who has saved us, and called us with a holy calling, not according to our works, but according to His own purpose and

grace, which was given to us in Christ Jesus before the world began,” he declares God to be the author of salvation, “Who has saved us and called us” The whole tenor of the verse is towards a strong affirmation of Bible doctrine, “that salvation is of the Lord.” It would require a very great changing and twisting, involving more than ingenuity; it would need dishonesty, to make out salvation by man out of this text; but to find salvation altogether of God in it is to perceive the truth of God which lies upon the very surface. No need for a profound inquiry, the wayfaring man though a fool shall not err here; for the text says as plainly as words can say, “God has saved us, and called us with a holy calling.” The Apostle, then, in order to bring forth the truth that salvation is of grace, declares that it is of God, that it springs directly and entirely from Him and from Him alone. Is not this according to the teaching of the Holy Spirit in other places, where He affirms over and over again that the alpha and omega of our salvation must be found, not in ourselves but in our God? The Apostle, in saying that God has saved us refers to all the persons of the Divine Trinity. *The Father* has saved us.

“God has given to us eternal life...” 1 John 5:11.

“The Father Himself loves you.” It was He whose gracious mind first conceived the thought of redeeming His chosen from the ruin of the Fall; it was His mind which first planned the way of salvation by substitution; it was from His generous heart that the thought first sprang that Christ should suffer as the covenant Head of His people, as said the apostle, “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ. According as He has chosen us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love: having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will, to the praise of the glory of His grace, wherein He has made us accepted in the Beloved” Eph. 1:3-6.

From the heart of divine compassion came the gift of the only-begotten Son:

“For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” John 3:16

The Father selected the persons who should receive an interest in the redemption of His Son, for these are described as, “called according to His purpose” Rom 8:28. The plan of salvation in all its details sprang from the Father’s wisdom and grace. The apostle did not, however, overlook the work of **the Son**. It is most certainly through the Son of God that we are saved, for is not His name Jesus, the Savior? Incarnate in the flesh, His holy life is the righteousness in which saints are arrayed; while His humiliating and painful death has filled the sacred bath of blood in which the sinner must be washed that he may be made clean. It is through the redemption, which is in Christ Jesus, that the people of God become accepted in the Beloved. With one voice before the eternal throne they sing, “Unto Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His blood, unto Him be glory,” and they chant that hymn because He deserves the glory which they ascribe to Him. **It is the Son of God who is the Savior of men, and men are not the saviors of themselves.**

Nor did the Apostle Paul, I am persuaded, forget that Third Person in the blessed Trinity, the Holy Spirit. Who but the Holy Spirit first gives us the power to understand the gospel? “The

carnal mind understands not the things that are of God.” Does not the Holy Spirit influence our will, turning us from the pigheadedness of our former rebellion to the obedience of the truth of God? Does not the Holy Spirit renew us, creating us in Christ Jesus unto good works? Is it not by the Holy Spirit’s breath that we live in the spiritual life? Is He not to us instructor, comforter, quickener? Is He not everything, in fact, through His active operations upon our mind? The Father, then, in planning, the Son in redeeming, the Spirit, in applying the redemption must be spoken of as the one God “who has saved us.”

Believers, to say that we save ourselves are to utter a manifest ridiculousness. We are called in Scripture “a temple,” a holy temple in the Lord. But shall anyone assert that the stones of the edifice were their own architect? Shall it be said that the stones of the building in which we are now assembled cut themselves into their present shape, and then spontaneously came together, and piled this spacious edifice? Should anyone assert such a foolish thing, we would be disposed to doubt his sanity; much more may we suspect the spiritual sanity of any man who should venture to affirm that the great temple of the Church of God designed and erected itself. No, we believe that God the Father was the architect, sketched the plan, supplies the materials, and will complete the work. Shall it also be said that those who have redeemed themselves; that slaves of Satan break their own fetters? Then why was a Redeemer needed at all? How should there be any need for Jesus to descend into the world to redeem those who could redeem themselves? Do you believe that the sheep of God, whom He has taken from between the jaws of the lion, could have rescued themselves? It would be a bizarre thing if such were the case. Just one soul running around Heaven pleading that his own righteousness helped get him there would completely destroy God’s holiness all together, not mentioning the liar it would make of God. Too many times have I heard, so called and I mean so called Baptist pastors tell their people that if they could completely obey the Ten Commandments they would go to Heaven. No! No! Ten-thousand times no, obedience to the law as important as it is could never save the soul.

Our Lord Jesus came not to do an unworkable work, but if He came to save persons who might have saved themselves, He certainly came without a necessity for so doing. We cannot believe that Christ came to do what the sinners might have done themselves. No, “He has trod the winepress alone, and of the people there was none with Him,” and the redemption of His people shall give glory unto Himself only! Shall it be asserted that those who were once dead have spiritually quickened themselves? Can the dead make them alive? Who shall assert that Lazarus, rotting in the grave, came forth to the life of himself? If it is so said and so believed, then, no, not even then, will we believe that the dead in sin have ever quickened them. Those who are saved by God the Holy Spirit are created anew according to Scripture; but whoever dreamed of creation creating it? God spoke the world out of nothing, but nothing did not aid in the creation of the Universe! Divine Energy can do everything, but what can nothing do? Now if we have a new creation, there must have been a Creator, and it is clear that not being then spiritually created, we could not have assisted in our own new creation, unless, indeed, death can assist life and non-existence aid in creation. The carnal mind does not assist the Spirit of God in new creating a man, but altogether regeneration is the work of God the Holy Spirit, and the work of renewal is from His unassisted power. Father, Son, and Spirit we then adore and putting these thoughts together we would humbly prostrate ourselves at the foot of the throne of the grand Majesty, and acknowledge that if saved, He alone has saved us, and unto Him be the glory.

**TIME IS ALMOST UP AND THE END IS NEAR,** How do you know that you have not already heard God's last altar call?

**PRAY THE HOLY SPIRIT WILL USE THIS SERMON  
TO BRING MANY TO A SAVING KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST!**