

## **REDEEMING THE TIME** **“While It Is Called Today”**

### **Introduction**

*In our last session we examined the eternal irony that our flesh is bound to death because of sin while at the same time, God has set eternity in our hearts. We looked at earth time by God’s measure and saw how He had divided it by the day, week, month, seasons, and years. One thing we did not look at in great detail was the cycle of feasts in the ceremonial calendar.*

Colossians 2:16-17

16 Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of an holyday, or of the new moon, or of the sabbath days:

17 Which are a shadow of things to come; but the body is of Christ. KJV<sup>1</sup>

*A study of feast days, holydays, and Sabbath days mentioned in the Scriptures would give the Bible student many rich insights. A full examination of them, however, is well beyond the scope of this study. I commend the reader to the grace of God and the leading of the Holy Spirit in delving into the deep well of understanding that a study of this subject matter would provide. But I do so with a strong admonition and reminder: that the student always bear in mind and remember that the festivals and customs shown to us in the Old Testament are but shadows of that which we have already and have yet to inherit.*

*Now, having already discussed the importance of a day in God’s economy, we want to move on to look at daily realities and daily functions required for spiritual wellbeing.*

### **I. Sufficient to the Day**

Matthew 6:34

Take therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.

*Much of our frustration in life is directly derived from trying to live outside the boundary of the day. Now, when Jesus says to “take no thought for the morrow,” this is not an admonition to live recklessly without planning, but to live carelessly (as in without distracting care) without worry.*

*Our battles are won or lost in the day. It is our daily activities that determine much of what will transpire in our weeks, months, seasons, or years.*

Ephesians 5:16 “Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.”

*The very reason given for redeeming the time is because the days are evil. And the Lord has told us that the evil we encounter on a daily basis is enough to take on. We don’t need to burden ourselves with the evil of yesterday or tomorrow. Today’s evil is enough. It comes to*

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<sup>1</sup> All references are from the King James Version of the Bible unless otherwise noted.

*us in a daily battle. But we are given daily grace to overcome and are called upon daily to guard our gardens.*

1. Daily Warfare

A. The enemy questions our faith in God daily.

Psalms 42:10-11

10 As with a sword in my bones, **mine enemies reproach me; while they say daily unto me, Where is thy God?**

11 Why art thou cast down, O my soul? and why art thou disquieted within me? hope thou in God: for I shall yet praise him, who is the health of my countenance, and my God.

*If daily the enemy asks us, “Where is thy God?” what should be our daily response? It should be to encourage our soul in His hope and proclaim in praise that He is the health of our countenance!*

B. The enemy works daily to eradicate us.

Psalms 56:1-11

1 Be merciful unto me, O God: for man would swallow me up; **he fighting daily oppresseth me.**

2 **Mine enemies would daily swallow me up:** for they be many that fight against me, O thou most High.

3 What time I am afraid, I will trust in thee.

4 In God I will praise his word, in God I have put my trust; I will not fear what flesh can do unto me.

5 Every day they wrest my words: all their thoughts are against me for evil.

6 They gather themselves together, they hide themselves, they mark my steps, when they wait for my soul.

7 Shall they escape by iniquity? in thine anger cast down the people, O God.

8 Thou tellest my wanderings: put thou my tears into thy bottle: are they not in thy book?

9 When I cry unto thee, then **shall mine enemies turn back:** this I know; for God is for me.

10 In God will I praise his word: in the LORD will I praise his word.

11 In God have I put my trust: I will not be afraid what man can do unto me.

*The enemy has a daily, ever present desire to wipe us off from the face of the earth. So what are we to do? Glorify him by telling everyone how much and how often the enemy attacks us? Guess what, we are all in the same war. He’s attacking us all! We are not to cry about our enemies, but cry unto God for His deliverance and glorify the One who saves us!*

C. We are to daily triumph in His victory.

Romans 8:36-37

36 As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter.

37 Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.

*Paul completes the psalmist's cry (Ps. 44:22) with the New Testament answer, "we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us!" We are not to be slaughtered all day long, but to daily triumph in the victory He has accomplished for us.*

*This is not simply accomplished through passive reflection, but through actively clothing ourselves in His armor and light.*

Ephesians 6:10-13

10 Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might.

11 Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

12 For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

13 Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand.

*It is with the whole armor of God that we are able to withstand in the evil day. This armor amounts to nothing more nor less than being clothed with the Lord Jesus Christ.*

Romans 13:11-14

11 And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

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 and wantonness, not in strife and envying.

14 But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.

*When we make provision for the flesh, we are as warriors who on the day of battle have flung off their armor and then try to engage the enemy. We need the armor to succeed. And as the battle line is drawn, we are given grace in the day.*

## 2. We Are Given Grace in the Day

### A. In the hour of trial.

Mark 13:9-11

9 But take heed to yourselves: for they shall deliver you up to councils; and in the synagogues ye shall be beaten: and ye shall be brought before rulers and kings for my sake, for a testimony against them.

10 And the gospel must first be published among all nations.

11 But when they shall lead you, and deliver you up, take no thought beforehand what ye shall speak, neither do ye premeditate: but whatsoever shall be given you in that hour, that speak ye: for it is not ye that speak, but the Holy Ghost.

*Civil and religious authorities are caught up and manipulated in this battle. But God uses that to His glory. We are not to spend sleepless nights trying to determine what we shall say when questioned (hold this in context – this does not exonerate us from our daily preparations in the Gospel, which is part of our armor as well), but allow the Holy Spirit to speak through us as a testimony of God before men. He will give us grace in the trial.*

Luke 21:12-19

12 But before all these, they shall lay their hands on you, and persecute you, delivering you up to the synagogues, and into prisons, being brought before kings and rulers for my name's sake.

13 And it shall turn to you for a testimony.

14 Settle it therefore in your hearts, not to meditate before what ye shall answer:

15 For I will give you a mouth and wisdom, which all your adversaries shall not be able to gainsay nor resist.

16 And ye shall be betrayed both by parents, and brethren, and kinsfolks, and friends; and some of you shall they cause to be put to death.

17 And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake.

18 But there shall not an hair of your head perish.

19 In your patience possess ye your souls.

*He will give us a mouth and wisdom that our adversaries will not be able to resist.*

B. At the time of temptation.

1 Corinthians 10:12-13

12 Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall.

13 There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it.

*We prepare ourselves against temptation by daily discipline. But the escape is provided at the time of the temptation. His grace is always timely.*

C. For the work of the day.

John 9:4

I must work the works of him that sent me, while it is day: the night cometh, when no man can work.

*If we do not do the things He commands us to do today, we may not have tomorrow to make it up. We need to work while it is day.*

James 4:13-17

13 Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain:

14 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.

15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.

16 But now ye rejoyce in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil.

17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

*Recognizing that our days are in His hands keeps us humble. Any affirmative statement of what we are going to accomplish without acknowledgement of God's sovereignty is prideful and thus sinful. The very act removes us from His grace for God resists the proud but gives grace to the humble. We need to do what we know we must do today that tomorrow does not find us in sin.*

### 3. Guard Our Garden Daily (Give No Ground)

*At no time in this life do we "arrive." To be fruitful, it is required of us to be daily vigilant against the foxes and weeds that would destroy our gardens. Three common daily attackers we need to guard against are debt (offenses), anger, and worry.*

#### A. Against debt (offenses)

Proverbs 6:1-5

1 My son, if thou be surety for thy friend, if thou hast stricken thy hand with a stranger,

2 Thou art snared with the words of thy mouth, thou art taken with the words of thy mouth.

3 Do this now, my son, deliver thyself, when thou art come into the hand of thy friend; go, humble thyself, and make sure thy friend.

4 Give not sleep to thine eyes, nor slumber to thine eyelids.

5 Deliver thyself as a roe from the hand of the hunter, and as a bird from the hand of the fowler.

*Cosigning for a loan is like taking up offenses for somebody else. Going into debt for ourselves is bad enough. Even worse is exposing ourselves to the debt of others. This is exactly what we do when we pick up unforgiveness and bitterness on behalf of somebody else. If you find yourself in this place, do as the Lord says and give no sleep to your eyes until you have delivered yourself from the fowler's snare.*

#### B. Against anger

Ephesians 4:26-27

26 Be ye angry, and sin not: let not the sun go down upon your wrath:

27 Neither give place to the devil.

*Any wrath or anger must be resolved in the day of offense, otherwise we will give the devil ground.*

C. Against worry

1 Peter 5:6-7

6 Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:

7 Casting all your care upon him; for he careth for you.

*The Greek word translated “care” in verse 7 is the word from which the “thought” of Matthew 6:34 comes from. When we read “give no thought” it is this kind of thinking the Lord is telling us to avoid – the worrisome, distracting, and anxious kind. He wants us to transfer all those cares to His keeping because He cares for us.*

Luke 10:41-42

41 And Jesus answered and said unto her, Martha, Martha, thou art careful and troubled about many things:

42 But one thing is needful: and Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her.

*When we are careful and troubled, we find it hard to stay at the Master’s feet and learn of Him. Instead, we allow those worries and cares to drive us to busyness and away from His fellowship.*

Philippians 4:6

Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

*Instead of being overgrown by weeds of worry, we should turn our concerns into promptings for prayer and supplication with thanksgiving to God.*

## II. It’s a Daily Walk

*The daily nature of our walk with God was shown from the beginning, when He walked in the garden in the cool of the day<sup>2</sup>. The Christian life is not just a Sunday (or just a Sabbath) activity. It is a walk of daily discipline, requiring daily sacrifice, prayer, and praise.*

### 1. The Daily Sacrifice

#### A. The Law

Ex 29:38-39, 42-45

38 Now this is that which thou shalt offer upon the altar; two lambs of the first year day by day continually.

39 The one lamb thou shalt offer in the morning; and the other lamb thou shalt offer at even:

42 This shall be a continual burnt offering throughout your generations at the door of the tabernacle of the congregation before the LORD: where I will meet you, to speak there unto thee.

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<sup>2</sup> Gen 3:8 “And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden.” NASB

43 And there I will meet with the children of Israel, and the tabernacle shall be sanctified by my glory.

44 And I will sanctify the tabernacle of the congregation, and the altar: I will sanctify also both Aaron and his sons, to minister to me in the priest's office.

45 And I will dwell among the children of Israel, and will be their God.

*The daily sacrifice was a burnt offering unto the Lord, presented morning and evening. This sacrifice, established by God, set the two primary times of the day for communion with Him, for He said, "There will I meet with the children of Israel."*

#### B. The application

1 John 1:5-9

5 This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all.

6 If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not the truth:

7 But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.

8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

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

*Jesus was a burnt offering for us<sup>3</sup>. Morning and evening are perfect times to examine ourselves in light of that sacrifice and make sure that we keep a clear account with the Father.*

Romans 12:1

I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service.

*I don't know about you, but I've found myself off the altar more than once. Ideally, once we have presented our bodies unto the Lord as a living sacrifice, we should let Him keep it. But just in case we are not living ideal lives, it would be a good idea to examine ourselves daily to make sure we haven't taken back for ourselves what belongs to Him. Dying to self is a daily process and offering.*

1 Corinthians 15:31

I protest by your rejoicing which I have in Christ Jesus our Lord, **I die daily**.

#### C. The power of timing

1 Kings 18:36-38

36 And it came to pass at the time of the offering of the evening sacrifice, that Elijah the prophet came near, and said, LORD God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word.

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<sup>3</sup> See Eph 5:2

37 Hear me, O LORD, hear me, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again.

38 Then the fire of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench.

*Note the time of Elijah's prayer and offering that it was during the time of the evening sacrifice. As he was battling the priests of Ba'al in the Northern Kingdom, his brothers in Jerusalem were offering the evening sacrifice in the Temple. God surely met him there!*

## 2. Daily Prayer

1 Thessalonians 5:17 "Pray without ceasing."

*If we are to pray without ceasing, it stands to reason that we should be praying every day! We should pray for daily mercy, daily instruction, and daily needs.*

### A. For daily mercy.

Psalms 86:1-7

1 Bow down thine ear, O LORD, hear me: for I am poor and needy.

2 Preserve my soul; for I am holy: O thou my God, save thy servant that trusteth in thee.

**3 Be merciful unto me, O Lord: for I cry unto thee daily.**

4 Rejoice the soul of thy servant: for unto thee, O Lord, do I lift up my soul.

5 For thou, Lord, art good, and ready to forgive; and plenteous in mercy unto all them that call upon thee.

6 Give ear, O LORD, unto my prayer; and attend to the voice of my supplications.

7 In the day of my trouble I will call upon thee: for thou wilt answer me.

*We have been given the supreme mercy in the sin sacrifice of our Lord Jesus Christ. We should not live in ungratefulness, but in thanksgiving rely on His mercy daily.*

Psalms 30:5

For his anger endureth but a moment; in his favour is life: weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning.

Lamentations 3:22-24

22 It is of the LORD's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not.

23 They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness.

24 The LORD is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him.

*Jeremiah's lament was written over the destruction of Jerusalem. Consider the horrors he was witnessing when he faithfully declared "the Lord is my portion, therefore I will hope in Him!"*

B. For daily instruction<sup>4</sup>.

Psalms 25:5

Lead me in thy truth, and teach me: for thou art the God of my salvation; on thee do I wait all the day.

Isaiah 50:4-5

4 The Lord GOD hath given me the tongue of the learned, that I should know how to speak a word in season to him that is weary: he wakeneth morning by morning, he wakeneth mine ear to hear as the learned.

5 The Lord GOD **hath opened mine ear**, and I was not rebellious, neither turned away back.

Psalms 40:6-8

6 Sacrifice and offering thou didst not desire; mine **ears hast thou opened**: burnt offering and sin offering hast thou not required.

7 Then said I, Lo, I come: in the volume of the book it is written of me,

8 I delight to do thy will, O my God: yea, thy law is within my heart.

*Isaiah 50:4-5 and Psalm 40:6-8 are prophetic of the Lord Jesus, Who, Scripture tells us, was an early riser.*

Mark 1:35

And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed.

Matthew 28:1, 6

1 In the end of the sabbath, as it began to dawn toward the first day of the week, came Mary Magdalene and the other Mary to see the sepulchre.

6 He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay.

C. For daily needs.

Matthew 6:9-13

9 After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.

10 Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven.

11 **Give us this day our daily bread.**

12 And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

13 And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

*The prayer for daily bread is an acknowledgement of His daily care of even our simplest needs. But bread is also representative of His word, which we also need in fresh and daily supply<sup>5</sup>.*

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<sup>4</sup> We are in need of daily wisdom (Prov 8:32-36; James 1:5) and daily study (Acts 17:11). For the prophetically minded, the Lord deals with His prophets early in the morning (Jer 7:25).

<sup>5</sup> See Matt 4:4.

### 3. Daily Praise

#### A. All day, every day.

Psalms 35:28

And my tongue shall speak of thy righteousness and **of thy praise all the day long.**

Psalms 44:8

**In God we boast all the day long,** and praise thy name for ever. Selah.

Psalms 145:2

**Every day will I bless thee;** and I will praise thy name for ever and ever.

#### B. Protection in the day of trouble.

Psalms 27:4-5

4 One thing have I desired of the LORD, that will I seek after; that I may dwell in the house of the LORD all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the LORD, and to inquire in his temple.

5 For **in the time of trouble he shall hide me in his pavilion:** in the secret of his tabernacle shall he hide me; he shall set me up upon a rock.

Psalms 84:10-12

10 For a day in thy courts is better than a thousand. I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the tents of wickedness.

11 **For the LORD God is a sun and shield:** the LORD will give grace and glory: no good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly.

12 O LORD of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee.

#### C. How simultaneous praise changed the world.

Psalms 119:164

Seven times a day do I praise thee because of thy righteous judgments.

*Benedict of Nursia cited this verse in his monastic rule to set the times of prayer<sup>6</sup>. These seven times of prayer became known as the canonical hours and they were the primary reason for monastic existence, which was to pray in concert.*

*The monks' need to pray at specified times led to a greater proliferation of clocks and time keeping during the middle ages (the only science that advanced during these dark centuries). Clocks in turn allowed town and country folk to begin synchronizing and coordinating their labor. Coordinated labor translated into an increased economy. Increased economy turned into progress. And that progress (spurred by developing better and better clocks) eventually became known as the industrial revolution.*

*Our modern concept of punctuality stems directly from the urgency of Western Christian monks desiring to pray together and praising the Lord "seven times a day."<sup>7</sup>*

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<sup>6</sup> *Documents of the Christian Church*, Henry Bettenson editor. ©1963 by Oxford University Press, p. 117 sec. XVI.

### III. In the Time Accepted

#### 1. Daily Fellowship and Outreach

##### A. Adding believers to the Body.

Acts 2:46-47

46 And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,  
47 Praising God, and having favour with all the people. **And the Lord added to the church daily such as should be saved.**

##### B. Multiplying disciples.

Acts 6:1

And in those days, **when the number of the disciples was multiplied**, there arose a murmuring of the Grecians against the Hebrews, because their widows were neglected in the daily ministrations.

##### C. Increasing churches.

Acts 16:5

And so were the churches established in the faith, and increased **in number daily**.

#### 2. Daily Accountability

##### A. Personal

Matthew 12:36

But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.

Romans 14:12 “So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.”

##### B. Corporate

Hebrews 3:12-15

12 Take heed, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God.

13 **But exhort one another daily**, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.

14 For we are made partakers of Christ, if we hold the beginning of our confidence stedfast unto the end;

15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

##### C. To be found ready

Luke 21:36

Watch ye therefore, and pray always, **that ye may be accounted worthy** to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man.

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<sup>7</sup> These insights were gained from David S. Landes, *Revolution in Time*, © 1983, 2000 by the President and fellows of Harvard College. It is published by the Belknap Press of Harvard University Press, Cambridge, Massachusetts. With regard to the observations mentioned, see especially Chapter 3, “Are You Sleeping, Brother John?”

Mark 13:33-37

33 Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is.

34 For the Son of man is as a man taking a far journey, who left his house, and gave authority to his servants, and to every man his work, and commanded the porter to watch.

35 Watch ye therefore: for ye know not when the master of the house cometh, at even, or at midnight, or at the cockcrowing, or in the morning:

36 Lest coming suddenly he find you sleeping.

37 And what I say unto you I say unto all, Watch.

*Because we don't know what day He will return for us, we must watch and pray to be ready any and every day.*

### 3. The Day of Salvation

#### A. We cannot neglect our salvation.

Hebrews 2:1-3

1 Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip.

2 For if the word spoken by angels was stedfast, and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompence of reward;

3 How shall we escape, **if we neglect so great salvation**; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him;

Philippians 2:12

Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, **work out your own salvation with fear and trembling.**

#### B. The day to act is Today!

2 Corinthians 6:1-2

1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, **now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.**)

#### C. Our deliverance is to bring salvation to many.

Isaiah 49:7-10

7 Thus saith the LORD, the Redeemer of Israel, and his Holy One, to him whom man despiseth, to him whom the nation abhorreth, to a servant of rulers, Kings shall see and arise, princes also shall worship, because of the LORD that is faithful, and the Holy One of Israel, and he shall choose thee.

8 Thus saith the LORD, In an acceptable time have I heard thee, and in a day of salvation have I helped thee: and I will preserve thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, to establish the earth, to cause to inherit the desolate heritages;

- 9 That thou mayest say to the prisoners, Go forth; to them that are in darkness, Shew yourselves. They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places.
- 10 They shall not hunger nor thirst; neither shall the heat nor sun smite them: for he that hath mercy on them shall lead them, even by the springs of water shall he guide them.

*Verse nine gives us the purpose of our deliverance, "that thou mayest say to the prisoner, Go forth."*

Acts 26:16-18

- 16 But rise, and stand upon thy feet: for I have appeared unto thee for this purpose, to make thee a minister and a witness both of these things which thou hast seen, and of those things in the which I will appear unto thee;
- 17 Delivering thee from the people, and from the Gentiles, unto whom now I send thee,
- 18 To open their eyes, and to turn them from darkness to light, and from the power of Satan unto God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins, and inheritance among them which are sanctified by faith that is in me.

*We are not set free simply for ourselves, but to set others free as well.*

Revelation 22:17

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.

## **Conclusion**

*The start of time as we know it began when the Lord commanded the light to shine out of darkness. He called it "day." There are things that God does every day. Though He extends mercy everyday (Ps. 23:6), He is also angry with the wicked every day (Ps. 7:11-13). He will not wait forever. The Day of the Lord will come.*

*We can be thankful that He hears us in the day of trouble (Ps. 20:1-3) and daily loads us with benefits (Ps. 68:19). But this does not exonerate us from daily working out our salvation with fear and trembling (Phil. 2:12).*

*We need to commune daily with Him and each other in study, prayer, and exhortation. We need to work while it is called today and reach out to the lost that they might benefit from the Tree of Life from Whom we have our daily portion. For now is the time accepted and now is the day of salvation (2 Cor. 6:2)!*

*Amen!*