

Where the Rubber Meets the Road! Part 3: "Knowing Our Times!"

By Cere Muscarella

Our Faith... *Must be real/transformational!* We have to show ourselves as balanced, enduring, forgiving, restorative! ***Must get us through life w/it's struggles!*** Going to have them; they cannot break us or cause us to break from God! ***Must provide for us in compressed life!*** Bad for us, others and God if our professed faith fails under pressure! **"In whatsoever state I am in... I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me!" Phil 4.11-13 *And our faith must work in the times we are living in!***

We must know our times, what we must do and how we are to answer!

The Times... "Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and sea for the devil has come down to you with great wrath because he knows he has but a short time!" **Rev 12.13 Maintains a valid application for us from the 'commissioning of the saints...'**

"I beheld Satan as lightning fall from heaven. Behold, I give unto you power to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy: and nothing shall by any means hurt you.
Luke 10.18,19 *The language of our warfare!*

And war was waged w/the remnant, those who keep the commandments of God and have the testimony of Jesus Christ! **Rev 12.17 We don't have to wait to the end for this!** And power was given to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them... and all that dwell on the earth will worship him, those whose names are not written in the book of life of the Lamb... **13.7,8 Some die... but their fidelity does not!**

Here is the patience of the saints, and, here they are who keep the word of God and the faith of Jesus Christ! **13.10 14.12**

Be strong in the Lord, in the power of His might. Put on the whole armor of God *that you may be able to stand against the wiles (strategic deceptions/distractions) of the devil.* We wrestle not with flesh and blood but with principalities, powers, the rulers of darkness of this world and spiritual wickedness in high places... So take the whole armor to withstand in the evil day and having done all, stand! **Eph 6.10-12**

We are not afraid of the times of his power; we are only concerned with his 'wiles!'

The times... *Jesus, and the entire NT, make it clear, we were born into a time of warfare...* Not a big deal, just a reality for us! This is our world until heaven! The battle is spiritual... Overflows into our mental/physical lives... Compresses our experience of life all the more! It is 'shared' for crazy dynamics! ***And that tells us "Why" so many things happen!***

What we do... *"Live sober, live alert; your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour. Resist him, steadfast in the faith..." 1Peter 5.8,9* "The Holy Spirit speaks directly that in the latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to seducing spirits and doctrines of devils! *Refuse the offer! Be an example of a believer, in lifestyle, words, love, spirit, faith and purity. Stir up your gifts. Meditate on what I'm saying. Take heed to yourself and of what you believe!" 1Tim 4.1-16* *"And know this too.* In those perilous times many will fall into traps of self-love and money-love. Of boastfulness and pride. They will speak out against God and reject the rule of parents. They will be

unthankful, impure, w/o natural love, unforgiving, slanderers, unrestrained, fiercely competitive, unkind to anyone good, false, forward, full of conceit, lovers of pleasure more than of God, having a form of spirituality but w/o the power of God. Ever learning but never changing, getting worse, *but you turn to the things you have learned and been assured of to get ever better and to be thoroughly equipped for all good works!*" **2Tim 3.1-17 (abr)**

We draw near to God; by His Spirit, in His word, and do what He says!

What we do... We do all we do as unto the Lord... "And whatsoever we do in word or deed, *do all in the name of the Lord Jesus*, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." **Col 3.17** "Let us not love in word, neither in tongue; but in deed and in truth. *And it's how we know that we are of the truth, and assure our hearts before him.*" **1John 3.18,19** "To present ourselves as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God which is our reasonable service!" **Romans 12.1**

We do all we do for the sake of others... "We have used ourselves as models for your sakes..." **1Corinthians 4.6** "All that we do is for your sake, that the abundant grace of God may contribute to the glory (and life) of God (in you)!" **2Corinthians 4.15** "Our gospel came not unto you in word only, *but also in power, and in the Holy Ghost*, and in much assurance; as you know what manner of men we were among you for your sake." **1Thess 1.5**

What we have to say... God is not the enemy... The dominion of earth was given to Adam and Eve... They transferred title to Satan... Who goes about as a roaring lion seeking whom he may devour... With the agenda to steal, kill and destroy... To slander God and His people... done best by negative circumstances/events/people! "In the world you will have trouble, but be of good cheer, *I have overcome!*" -**Jesus, John 16.33**

They transferred title to Satan who is the source of death and destruction! Our faith in Jesus overcoming him and this world is how we overcome! Our suffering and overcoming is how we have a testimony to help you overcome! "God is faithful to work all these things together for good for those whose hearts are turned toward Him!"

But why doesn't God just stop bad things from happening and the bad people who do them? How well does that work with you? Knowing God is "just" would you be willing to "be stopped?" What would you say? God is not the domineer of men's wills! He calls to the perpetrator's... He walks alongside the victims...

Keeping the testimony alive that He is available to all who call on Him! Ps50.15

Confirming we are not forsaken, never alone! 2Cor 4.8,9 Ps 37.35 Heb 13.5

Proving He prequalifies the person to meet the problem! 1Cor 10.13 2Pet2.9

As long as we are 'here' we will have to live by faith and walk out a war-torn life together!

It's the truth that sets us free to do the "right" things!

It's the truth that makes the "good news" so good!