



***Let Your Light Shine—Part Three
Time Is Challenging Us***

1 Pet. 4:7

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Objective and Aim: *Everyone should invest their lives into reaching others because of the challenges that accompany the end of the age.*

Introduction: Right before Nancy and I were married she and I went to Frostproof to visit my parents. Before leaving town we stopped by to see Irene Mynatt; my best friend Ralph's mother. She was sick and in bed, but her husband Bob took us to see her in the back bedroom. After a few moments of chit chat the course of our conversation changed I began to talk to her about serving the Lord saying, "Irene, look at my life. You know what I used to be and the life I lived before. You saw me drink and do drugs and get in trouble time and again. You watched me waste my life and now you know I am different. Irene, Jesus loves you and will help you the way He has helped me." We prayed for her that afternoon; she accepted Christ and I never saw her again—she died soon thereafter. Many of our friends and family are facing death without hope and faith in Christ and hope—the whole purpose of life is to prepare for eternity and time is beaoning so let your light shine so others may see.

#1) People are the Closet thing to God's Heart 2) People are Perishing 3) Time is Challenging Us

#1. Time is challenging us *(Ro. 13:11-14 Now do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. ¹² The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. ¹³ Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy. ¹⁴ But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh, to fulfill its lusts.)*

A. An ancient legend speaks of a time when Satan summoned most dastardly demons together for a strategy session. He wanted to strategize on how his principalities might

stop the preaching of the gospel from disrupting their horribly wicked plans for people. One of Satan's lieutenants, Beelzebub, said to him, "We should convince them that there is no God." Satan sneered at Beelzebub and replied, "That would never work. They know that there is a God." Another of Satan's aides, Lust, spoke up. "We'll convince them that God does not really care about right or wrong." Satan toyed with the notion for a few moments, but rejected it because he knew that too many followers of Christ know that God does care. Malice, the third satanic helper, came up with his idea. "We'll let them go on thinking that there is a God and that He cares about right and wrong. But we will keep whispering—there is no hurry, there is no hurry." Satan howled with glee. He advanced Malice higher in his malevolent and wicked organization. Satan knew that he would find this stratagem successful with many, many Christians.

Question: What causes us to believe that the end of the world is near other than mankind being on the verge of destroying themselves; other than all the hate, death and destruction we see on internet and news channels daily?

1. **The Jews are Back** (Joel 3:1-3, 14-16 NKJV For behold, in those days and at that time, when I bring back the captives of Judah and Jerusalem, ²I will also gather all nations, and bring them down to the Valley of Jehoshaphat; and I will enter into judgment with them there on account of My people, My heritage Israel, whom they have scattered among the nations ... Multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision! For the day of the LORD *is* near in the valley of decision. ¹⁵The sun and moon will grow dark, And the stars will diminish their brightness. ¹⁶The LORD also will roar from Zion, and utter His voice from Jerusalem; the heavens and earth will shake; but the LORD will be a shelter for His people, and the strength of the children of Israel.)
 - a. *Pastor Dan:* The nation of Israel serves as the hands on God's prophetic clock, letting us know that the coming of Christ and the end of the world is very near. God has connected the return of the Jews to its ancient homeland—Israel to the judgment of the nations and at the great Battle of Armageddon.
 - b. **Hos. 3:4-5 NKJV** For the children of Israel shall abide many days without king or prince, without sacrifice or *sacred* pillar, without ephod or teraphim. ⁵Afterward the children of Israel shall return and seek the LORD their God and David their king. They shall fear the LORD and His goodness in the latter days
 - c. **Jeremiah 16:14-15 NKJV** Therefore behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "that it shall no more be said, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of Egypt,' ¹⁵but, 'The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them.' For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers
 - d. *Pastor Dan;* Eliezer and Moses 1st trip to Israel
 - e. *Pastor Dan; Drunk on Jerusalem: Zechariah 12:1-9* In the last days many nations will become intoxicated with hate for the Jews.
2. **The Antichrist is coming** (1 Jn. 2:18 *Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come*

(Message--they're all over the place, antichrists are everywhere you look) by which we know that it is the last hour.

- a. *Pastor Dan:* What is the recent deluge of persecution against Christians leading to; what event will climax the unrest we see in the world with the Islamic Jihad, the Nuclear proliferation among rogue nations? The stage is being set for THE ANTICHRIST to burst on the scene, gain control of the world and require all that wish to buy, sell, have access to health care, public assistance, work, etc. to pledge allegiance to the empire.
- b. **Rev. 13:1-2, 7-8, 16-18** I saw a beast rising up out of the sea, having seven heads (signifies its mighty power. It has seven royal diadems, signifying its complete power over the kingdoms of this world) and ten horns, and on his horns ten crowns, and on his heads a blasphemous name ... the dragon gave him his power his throne, and great authority ... ⁷ It was granted to him to make war with the saints and to overcome them. And authority was given him over every tribe, tongue, and nation. ⁸ All who dwell on the earth will worship him, whose names have not been written in the Book of Life ... he causes all, both small and great, rich and poor, free and slave, to receive a mark on their right hand or on their foreheads, ¹⁷ and that no one may buy or sell except one who has the mark or the name of the beast, or the number of his name ... 666.
- c. *Messenger of Saint Anthony:* AT THE START OF the 21st century, the words of Christ prophesising the persecution of his followers ring as clearly as ever—they're accuracy echoed in a variety of international reports showing Christians to be the most persecuted faith group in the modern world. Beheadings, torture, rape, kidnappings, mass killings, forced starvation, imprisonment and even crucifixions attest that the persecution of Christians did not end at the foot of the cross or the closed gates of the Roman Coliseum. Last year alone, sources indicate that an estimated 165, 000 Christians died because of religious or ethnic clashes. When taken together, the reports—from organisations such as *Aid to the Church in Need (ACN)*, the *World Evangelical Fellowship (WEF)*, *Human Rights Without Frontiers (HRWF)*, *Voice of the Martyrs (VOM)* and *Amnesty International (AI)*—open a window on Christian persecution in all parts of the world. Approximately 10 per cent of the 2 billion Christians in the world suffer persecution ... this means that some 200 million Christians suffer harsh repercussions because of their religion. Most of the persecution against Christians today is occurring in predominately Muslim populated countries, including Sudan, where the Islamic government is waging a decade-old war against Christians in the south. It is a battle that has seen over 2 million people killed, the majority of them Christians, and another 14 million displaced. the *National Islamic Front* regime in Khartoum has been, and is conducting a campaign of genocide aimed at exterminating the Christian, African and non-Arab populations of Sudan in order to establish a uniform Arab-Islamic state in the heart of Africa. Why are so many Christians being persecuted today? Rev. Johan Candelin ... reasons that the persecution of Christians around the world goes hand in hand with several important trends. Conflicts are tending to be within states rather than between them, he observes. As well, more and more countries with a colonial past are seeking their own identify. Another factor

behind the increase in persecution of Christians is the increased militancy of Muslims in the Islamic belt, from Morocco eastward to the southern Philippines.

3. **Deception** (*Matt. 24:3-5* *Jesus disciples came to him privately and said, “Tell us ... what sign will signal your return and the end of the world.”* ⁴ *Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, ⁵for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah (anointed one).’ They will deceive many).*
 - a. Islam is the second largest religion in the world (1.4 possibly 1.8 billion people as compared with Christianity with 2:1 billion people). Islam by definition means surrender and submission only to the one true creator. Muhammad claimed that he was the prophet to restore true religion and the praise of Allah throughout the world, just as Jesus Christ was a prophet in His time for His people. The Muslim creed—there is no God but God and Muhammad is the apostle of God.
 - b. *Mormons:* Mormons trace their origin to the visions that Joseph Smith reported having in the early 1820s while living in upstate New York. In 1823 Smith said an angel directed him to a buried book written on golden plates containing the religious history of an ancient people. Smith used special glasses called the Urim and Turim which gave him the ability to read the golden plates. The Mormon Church has always held the position that they alone represent true Christianity. Mormons do not believe in the incarnation of Christ; they do not believe that He was the son of God.
 - c. *Jehovah’s Witnesses*—The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society began in the 1870s with Charles Taze Russell. They not only deny the essentials of the Christian faith such as Christ being the Son of God—God Incarnate, but the control exercised over the membership is highly destructive.

Closing:

4. **Travel and Knowledge** (*Dan. 12:4* *Daniel, keep this prophecy a secret; seal up the book until the time of the end, when many will rush here and there, and knowledge will increase.*)
 - a. *Travel* In November of 2014 on a Tuesday evening Bill, Jim and me departed from Petra, Jordan by van and went to Eilat, Israel. We boarded a plane and flew to Tel Aviv Israel. A taxi met us in Tel Aviv and transported us Jerusalem, Israel. We arrived in Jerusalem at 12 midnight and got up at 3 AM and drove to Tel Aviv, Israel. From there we boarded a plane and left the continent of Asia and landed on the continent of Europe in Paris, France. In Paris we got on a plane and flew to Atlanta, Georgia in North America. We flew from Atlanta to Tampa, Florida where we were picked up by Jim Henry and driven to Englewood. We traveled 10,000 miles in 25 hours and been on three continents in four countries.
 - b. *Knowledge:* Some time ago Nancy and I were in Denny’s and I made a statement about something insignificant and she disagreed with me. So in a moment of glory, knowing I was right—a moment I will never forget, I got out my cell phone googled the topic and proved to her that I was right. It was a wonderful moment where the internet and my phone allowed me to be right just once. Nancy even conceded and told me that I was right—a moment in my life to cherish and always remember.

- c. *James Montgomery*: Our generation alone can comprehend the marvels of automobiles, computers, aircrafts and many other modern inventions. We have witnessed a great expansion of human knowledge. Consider these scientific achievements of recent times: The human genetic code has now been broken; data can be accessed worldwide through computers; mankind has traveled to the moon and has sent probes to many other planets in our solar system; satellites can transmit audio and video signals anywhere in the world; we can now digitally record music and video; we can communicate instantly through the phone, satellite, or the Internet; many diseases that have plagued mankind for centuries have now been wiped out; we can now clone animals, even intermingling species. If knowledge continues to increase at the current rate, man will eventually begin to manipulate his own genetics. Qualities of various species could be combined to form a new creation. For this reason, the rule of man on the earth will certainly come to a conclusion, and God Himself will rule. Today, man's knowledge doubles about every seven years. No other generation can claim this feat.”