

Midnight Cry Messenger

FREELY SHARED WITH THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY FOR TRUTH — NOT TO BE SOLD

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A Time to Choose

by Phil Enlow

Adapted from a message preached at the Bible Tabernacle on March 19, 2017.

It seems like periodically it's appropriate to come back to a scripture that we've used many times over the years and it's in 2nd Thessalonians chapter 2. I'm going to back up and pick up the context a little bit. But I believe with all my heart, we're seeing the unfolding of things that Paul is talking about in this passage. And we need to ever keep in our minds and our hearts the sense of perspective of what's really going on in the world and our place in it, and the reality that we are in a time when men are choosing, and they're making eternal choices.

It's always been true, but there are times in history when that's seemingly been more true than others, if you can put it that way. Noah's day was certainly an example, because there was an expiration date on that ancient world. God had fixed a time when He was going to destroy it and save the few that were His. So, it wasn't a matter of, well, I'll decide next week. For many, next week never came. We are in a similar time.

I'm going to go ahead and pick up a little of the context here to see what he's talking about. Paul is rejoicing at the beginning of chapter 1 in the strength, the perseverance, the faith, that was demonstrated in the lives of the saints at Thessalonica.

They demonstrated it by standing up to a hostile world. And it was the Spirit of God that strengthened and enabled them and their conviction was real. It was a heaven-sent conviction that was the result of God's supernatural work in the heart. And so, they were standing against the hostility of the world and Paul takes note and he's thankful for it.

And then in verse 5 he says, "All this is evidence that God's judgment is right" (NIV). So basically, he's introducing a subject: coming judgment! In other words, judgment is coming and the fact that you are standing up for God and the world is opposing you is a pretty good indication that God's judgment of the world is right. There is a sense of justice.

How many times have you been tempted to look at the world and its condition and things that are happening to Christians around the world, the persecutions, the seemingly senseless deaths of people at the hands of the devil's crowd, and you wonder, what in the world? Where is God in all of this? Why is it like it is?

God is tolerating the wickedness of this world for a time and He's using it to accomplish something in His people. He's using it as a testimony of His righteousness. In the midst of some of the worst things that are happening in the world, God is reaching hearts that He might not reach any other way. We are going to be able to look back on that day and we are going to be amazed. We are going to be blown out of the water with the amazing wisdom and the righteousness of God!

And it's certainly reflected in that song. God will stand by His own, one way or another. It doesn't mean we won't be killed. It doesn't mean we won't suffer. It doesn't mean a lot of things with respect to this world. But God's people are going to come out the winners in the end. There is no one who has put their trust in the Lord Jesus Christ who will ever put to shame on that day, because there is a day coming when everything will be put right. And that's where Paul is going with this.

So it's, "... evidence that God's judgment is right, and as a result you will be counted worthy of the kingdom of God, for which you are suffering." So now, he talks about the justice of God. "God is just: He will pay back trouble to those who trouble you and give relief to you who

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My Yoke is Easy

Lucile Enlow

Years ago my mother shared with me a tract that was written many years ago by my grandmother. I know it will be a blessing to others as it was to me. Phil Enlow

Most Christians are carrying heavy loads which God never intended that they should carry. These unnecessary burdens keep us from bearing the ones we ought to bear, the prayer-burdens of the heart of God. And so long as we are tugging at the Lord's side of the yoke, we are hindering the perfect teamwork to which He invites us. It is our side of the yoke that is easy. He will bear the burden and the heat of the day.

With a delightful sense of freedom, I have come to realize in fact, that I have only my half of any bargain to keep. For years I tried to keep both, but now I am concerning myself only with what is required of me. I am the one who may not be faithful. God can be depended upon.

So when He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest," I will simply come. With my eyes upon the One altogether lovely, my heart aglow with the light of His countenance, I will come unto Him. He gives rest.

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." How often have I "committed" a pressing need to my Lord, and then set about trying to bring it to pass, if not actually, at least in my mind. Of course, I am not speaking of something that is up to me to bring to pass, but of the answer to a problem that only God can solve.

Why should I sit up nights trying to figure out God's half of the bargain? Mine is to commit. That done, I can safely go about other business, serenely sure that God can be relied on. If He says He will

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Editor's Letter

Dear Saints,

Greetings once again in the wonderful name of Jesus! It's been a busy summer since our last issue and we rejoice in God's rich blessings. We gathered in June at the Lake City church for our first convention there and the Lord richly blessed. I know the folks in Lake City enjoyed not having to travel for once! They did a wonderful job hosting the meetings but the most wonderful thing is, of course, that the Lord was there!

We also have just finished with our Youth Camp, held again near the church in Lexington, South Carolina. It was a time of fun and fellowship to be sure but it was evident that the Lord was working in many many ways. Sunday evening we enjoyed many testimonies, not only that the young people had a good time but that the Lord had touched them in specific ways. I have no doubt that many seeds were planted that will come up at the proper time in hearts and lives. The camp was a major undertaking for the folks in the local church there and our great thanks to all who contributed.

The lead article is from a message recently used on the TV broadcast and its relevance to the world of our day jumped out at me as I read the transcript of the message. Truly, people everywhere are making choices that have eternal consequences and most don't realize it. May God's people be truly awake!

Till next time may God's rich blessings be yours.

Your brother in Christ,
Phil Enlow

destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the majesty of his power on the day he comes to be glorified in his holy people and to be marveled at among all those who have believed. This includes you, because you believed our testimony to you."

Now, I'm not trying to give a lecture here on eschatology, on the end-time events, but there's an awful lot in here that is pretty plain. If you start with the New Testament and you start with the words of Jesus, you're seeing one event here. Here's a world that looks like it's out of control. Here's a world where Christians look like they're the losers.

But God is just! And He has appointed a day and He's going to take care of both sides on that day. One day He's coming with fiery destruction, but He's coming to rescue and put on display His people that He's been working in all this time. So, this is just one little indicator here of how that's going to play out.

"With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill" Over and over again you get this sense: none of this depends on me and my strength. If it did, I'd have no hope today. There's nothing in me that can stand up to my own flesh, let alone the world, or the Devil and all of his cunning and all his wisdom.

But it's, "... by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God" Over and over again — His power, His grace, isn't it? That's what stands behind us and underneath us.

"... The grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ." I believe with all my heart this is a prophecy, it's a word of warning, of instruction to God's people, and I believe we are in the fulfillment of this. It's happening as we speak. It has been happening for a long time. It's something we need to understand. We need to re-visit it, and really take in its implications.

So, Paul is writing and says, "Concerning the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and our being gathered to him, we ask you, brothers, not to become easily unsettled or alarmed by some prophecy, report or letter supposed to have come from us, saying that the day of the Lord has already come. Don't let anyone deceive you in any way, for that day will not come until the rebellion occurs and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the man doomed to destruction.

"He will oppose and will exalt himself over everything that is called God or is worshiped, so that he sets himself up in God's temple, proclaiming himself to be God. Don't you remember that when I was with you I used to tell you these things? And now you know

what is holding him back, so that he may be revealed at the proper time. For the secret power of lawlessness is already at work; but the one who now holds it back will continue to do so till he is taken out of the way.

"And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming. The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing. They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. For this reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe the lie and so that all will be condemned who have not believed the truth but have delighted in wickedness.

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers loved by the Lord, because from the beginning God chose you to be saved through the sanctifying work of the Spirit and through belief in the truth. He called you to this through our gospel, that you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

"So then, brothers, stand firm and hold to the teachings we passed on to you, whether by word of mouth or by letter. May our Lord Jesus Christ himself and God our Father, who loved us and by his grace gave us eternal encouragement and good hope, encourage your hearts and strengthen you in every good deed and word."

You see the context here. Paul is writing because apparently word has reached him that there have been some false teachers. Someone has come behind him and said, "The Day of the Lord has already come." It sounds like somebody may have written a letter and perhaps even signed Paul's name to it, so that it would carry a little more weight with those who heard about it.

But Paul is saying, don't you be deceived. Don't pay any attention to that; even if it seems like it's coming from me, don't pay any attention. Don't you remember how I told you about the coming of the Lord? That's what this is about.

Notice how these things, the last day manifestation of evil and the Lord's coming, all dovetail into one event, because he launches right into a discussion of the last rebellion, doesn't he? But yet, what he's talking about is the coming of the Lord and our being gathered to Him. That sounds like it's all together, doesn't it? It is.

So, Paul's subject is, basically, the great rebellion. I believe with all my heart that many of us here, particularly the older ones, can remember some of the things that the Lord revealed in our midst years ago.

I'm certainly old enough to remember the 1960's. How many of you here can remember

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are troubled, and to us as well."

So, when's that going to happen? He says, "This will happen when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven in blazing fire with his powerful angels. He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus." And we're going to see as we go along that it's not simply a lack of something, there is an adamance of spirit that refuses to obey.

They will be punished with everlasting

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that time and the things that were going on? It was a time in which there was a very definite rebellion against every value that had gone before. The whole younger generation was inspired by a spirit of darkness to rise up and say, “We cast off everything of the past!”

“If you’re over 30, you’re over the hill and we reject your values! We reject everything you’ve ever stood for! We reject any authority of moral law over us. We’re going to do as we please! We’re going to get high, be immoral, whatever comes to our minds. We are in charge! By God, we are rebelling.”

There has always been some of that. Doesn’t he say that? The mystery of iniquity, this spirit of rebellion, has always been here, but there has been a degree of restraint. So, Paul is looking down the stream of time and saying, this is not right now. Right now that spirit is here but it is being restrained to a degree. But there is coming a period of time that will usher in the time of the end. It will lead up to the time when Christ will come, because He’s the One who’s going to crush it when He does come.

But there will come a definite time of rebellion. And it doesn’t just say “a” time of great rebellion. It says “the” rebellion. There’s something specific about it.

This was particularly interesting to me when I first came here, to the old Tabernacle. I had lived as a college student through that period, watching my generation absolutely go crazy, and wondering what in the world was going on.

It just didn’t make any sense the stuff they were teaching and believing. What they were doing was simply outright rebellion, not just against society, but against God. And then I arrived here and found out how the Lord had been revealing that this was the time of the loosing of Satan. And it was very specific. It wasn’t just some loosing. This was the last loosing before the end of all things.

There was a point in time when God said, “All right, now I am stepping back. I’m going to let men have what they want.” And so, we have seen the unfolding of that in amazing ways.

How many of you look at the news today of what’s happening, the attitudes of people, the hateful behavior, the choices that are being made, the values that are being shoved down our throats — how many of you look at that and you say, “Good Lord, what planet are they on?” It’s just mind boggling to see the things that five years ago would have been unthinkable. Today, they’re just normal, not only normal, but you better shut up and agree with them or you are the one that’s in trouble!

If the spirit that is in the world today has its way, it will shut us behind our walls, and tell

us, “Don’t you dare peep about God outside of these walls!” And when they succeed in that, they will then come in here and do their best to shut us down all together. Satan’s aim is to destroy the influence of God everywhere.

I don’t know how it is here now, but some of us, especially older ones, remember what school was about. It was about actual education — reading, writing, arithmetic and a little bit of sociology and history. There was a reasonable presentation of what was right. We learned about the Constitution. I mean, I’ve heard of campuses where if you hand out a copy of the Constitution, they’re going to throw you in jail. It’s absolutely insane.

You could go on and on talking about that kind of stuff. I don’t think we have a clue what’s going on in schools today. I don’t know how it is here. It’s probably not as bad as where I grew up. I grew up in what has become one of the more liberal areas. But, I mean, they are teaching sexual deviancy beginning in kindergarten.

You don’t think Satan is loose? You don’t think the spirit of the age has come in and is just flooding men’s minds with darkness and programming them about the normalcy of everything that is against God? You don’t think there is a relentless rebellion against God’s institution of the family and how the family works? For example, you see this idea that children don’t belong to families, to fathers and mothers. Children belong to the state. You see the spirit of it.

I’ve told you before about just one example over in Europe. The government building of the European Union was modeled after a painting of the Tower of Babel. It’s just like man is shaking his fist in God’s face! There is a spirit of defiance that is out there and that’s what Paul is talking about. There is a rebellion.

It sounds like, in one sense, he’s talking about an individual man. And I don’t know whether there’s an individual man coming or not. I wouldn’t be surprised if there is. But I’ll tell you, there’s no man who could come and fit this description and succeed in gaining any kind of influence over the people of the world if the people hadn’t first had their hearts and minds prepared for it.

This is not just some bad guy that’s going to come and, oh my, he’s going to wow us and trick us all. This is a spirit that is at work right now in hearts and minds, trying its best to influence even people right here. Everywhere, the spirit of the age is to absolutely turn men against God and to a spirit of rebellion against everything that He stands for.

This thing called sin — it’s not just a list of do’s and don’ts, it is a life force that takes possession of hearts and minds and drives them to every form of selfishness, every form of evil behavior, in every way. There are many people who would point their finger at somebody

who’s guilty of a particular sin and they have something that’s worse going on in them, just like the religious people of Jesus’ day. Oh my!

I can’t wait for the day when there won’t be anything of that. I see a new heaven and a new earth. God’s glory is filling the universe. Won’t it be something to be set free from everything of this world? To be able to be what God created us to be in the first place, to be energized with divine life and all the gifts and abilities, whatever God has invested in every single one of us, flourishing to their highest degree, not through selfishness, but through selflessness, enjoying the riches of God’s grace? Praise God! Oh, don’t you long for that? Oh, I’ll tell you, it’s coming. Thank God!

So, here’s the destiny. This is why Satan is so angry. “And then the lawless one will be revealed, whom the Lord Jesus will overthrow with the breath of his mouth and destroy by the splendor of his coming.” Now, remember, the beginning of this passage talks about Christ’s coming and our being gathered to Him. But here’s something else that happens at that coming. He is going to destroy by the splendor of his coming all of this rebellion and all that’s wrong.

“The coming of the lawless one will be in accordance with the work of Satan displayed in all kinds of counterfeit miracles, signs and wonders, and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.” Now, it’s easy just to say, watch out, there are going to be lying signs and wonders. There are going to be miracles that really aren’t from God, and that is part of it. But there are a lot of people who wouldn’t be moved by that. It doesn’t limit it to that, does it? It says, “every” sort of evil.

I’ll tell you, we have a nature that runs to everything that God hates. If you follow the inclinations of this nature, you’re going to go into a dark dungeon of sin and destruction. And Satan knows how to appeal to every single person on this planet. He knows how to appeal to their nature and to portray sin in a way that makes it seem like that’s the thing that will give you what you’re looking for in life. It’ll be moral corruption for some. It’ll be riches and power for others. It’ll be every kind of thing that Satan can use to appeal to people. I’ll tell you what, we need the Lord, don’t we?

So anyway, “... counterfeit miracles ... and in every sort of evil that deceives those who are perishing.” Now why do they perish? What’s the deal here? What’s going on? Why are people perishing? Does God just get a kick out of saying, “Hey, you broke the rules, I get to judge you”? That’s not the spirit of it.

It’s interesting to contrast this with Jesus. You want to know what God is really like, what His heart is like toward the race of men who have fallen into sin? You look at Jesus. And you’ll see Someone who looked at people

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with compassion. You'll see the Son of God who came into the world to die a sacrificial death, and He didn't come to condemn.

Sin was there! It was terrible! But He didn't even come to condemn! He came to forgive. He came to save. He came to shine light on darkness so people could be rescued from that. That's God's heart! It's always been His heart! It's still His heart! That's why today He's reaching out in amazing ways in far corners of the world. God's still at work in His creation. But I'll tell you, there is something else going on.

But how is it that God could approach the woman at the well with such compassion and then deal with these in such violent wrath? What's going on here? How do you understand that? Do you ever wonder about that, how to put that together?

"They perish because they refused to love the truth and so be saved." See, what you're dealing with is not people who are simply caught by the power of sin, don't know how to escape it, don't know what to do. You're talking about people who do know, people who have been confronted one way or another with divine truth.

Jesus said himself, "And this is the condemnation ... " (KJV) — this is the reason for condemnation — "... Light is come into the world ..." But, what? "... Men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil." They refused to come to the light. They didn't want their sin exposed.

We need to understand what's going on in the world in which we live. We need to realize the hour in which we live and the incredible importance of taking our stand with Jesus Christ the Son of the Living God! He is Lord! I don't care what the Devil says, what he is allowed to do! Jesus Christ reigns!

And we need never to look at this world and be dismayed by what we see and say, "Oh we've got to fix it, we've got to do something." We've got to shine our light and not be ashamed of Jesus Christ in this world, just take what's coming and trust God to bring us through.

Do you see what's going on? People hate the truth! You look back at the days of Noah. How often we've used that. It's because Jesus used it. That's what He said: this is what it's going to be like when I come, like the days of Noah. And what an amazing, demonstration of God's mercy and God's love we see in spite of the terrible judgment that came.

We have the Lord's testimony at the beginning of that particular account, that the thoughts and intents of men's hearts were what? Only evil continually. It sounds like they were already in this condition, and God says, yet, there'll be 120 years! We don't have

a God that's rushing to judgment, looking to kill people, looking to judge people. We have a God who is going to reach out with mercy to that last soul that will hear His voice and embrace His Son. Thank God!

Folks, if you're here today, this should not frighten you. This should cause you to find hope in Jesus Christ, because the smallest child that puts their faith in Jesus Christ is safe for eternity! God sees every heart and He is in charge! There's not a devil in hell that can steal anything out of God's hand. Thank God!

But, oh, we see that awful time of judgment when God waited that 120 years and then finally the day came. Those who were ready were prepared. They walked with God. They listened to His voice. In the midst of all of this they stood with God and God made a way for them to be rescued out of that.

I've made this point many times over the years. You know, so many people talk about being left behind and all that stuff that's supposedly going to happen. What happened to those who were left behind? They died, didn't they? All of them — every single one that was left behind died. Man, this is not one of those deals where you can say, I'm just going to just wait and see. One of these days the Rapture's going to happen, then I'll get serious because I'll realize, hey, it really was true. It doesn't work that way.

This is the day of decision. This is the day when men are choosing. They're either going to be with Jesus or they're going to be with the world. There's a division that's happening right now. It's astounding what's going on. How many of you who can think back to the days when the Lord was showing us many of these things, and we looked at the world and we saw plenty wrong? But how many of you could have imagined some of the things that are part of our daily life today?

Imagine if Brother Thomas suddenly, not knowing any of this, stepped back into this, and looked around and read the headlines. My God, what an incredible down-hill slide. And we're in the middle of it. It happens a little at a time, a little at a time. But suddenly you look back and see where you were. We're not just heading for the cliff, we've gone off the cliff. But, oh, thank God, Jesus is in charge.

Thank God! There are so many things you could bring into this. I don't want to belabor it, but I don't want to soft-pedal it either. I don't know, for some reason my mind went back to this. It's just something we need to bring out from time to time, so people don't lose sight of where we're at, people understand why things are going on in the world.

Do you ever wonder, do you ever look and say, why is this? Why is God allowing it? What's going on? Well, here's the answer. God is letting lost men choose what they want. Oh my, how we need Him! My God, how we need

Him! If there's anybody that's got a heart in which something is pulling you towards the Lord, something is still tugging at the heart, you had better run to Him!

You had better run to the Lord, because, I'll tell you, you're going to go through one of two doors. There are only two destinies. There are only two doors through which any human being can go. One of them is to bow at the feet of the Lord Jesus Christ, surrender to His Lordship, open up the heart, invite Him in as resident Lord and Savior, and stand uncompromisingly with Him! That's door number one.

Door number two is to say, God, I am my own god. I reject Your Word. I reject Your life. It's my life! I'm going to do with it as I please. That's door number two. Those are the choices! It's God or the Devil. And we are seeing the human race, more and more, being divided into those two categories.

What do you think it's going to be like when Jesus comes? It's going to be total delusion on one side, total shock. And for others it's going to be hands in the air. Praise God! The race is run! There's going to be a handful still here on that day who will get to look up and say, praise God, the day has finally come! Jesus is here! Justice is finally going to be served! We don't have to live in this awful place anymore! We've got Jesus coming to take us to another place. The same Jesus who came out of that tomb so long ago has now come as He's promised.

Of course, there's another door, isn't there? And that door is in the heart. And that's the one that Jesus comes to and knocks. And what determines everything, everything, is what men do when He comes. When He brings the conviction of His truth, what do we do with it?

You have this contrast drawn: you've got a group here that have believed the lie; and you've got another group down here who have believed the truth. So, you see, it's exactly the same thing Jesus was talking about. There is a truth that will come knocking on the door of every individual heart.

And that truth will show you some things about yourself that you don't want to see. It will show you that you're a sinner. You're not the person you think you are. It'll show you that you are not ready to stand before Him. It'll show you what's wrong but yet it won't do it in a condemning way. It will do it in a truthful way that lifts up.

And I'll tell you, once we are willing to humble ourselves to that conviction, then God will lift up a Savior, and say, but I have provided completely for you. I love you. I'm not showing you this because I hate you. I'm showing you this because I love you and because I've made a way out of this.

You see, there's a choice that's involved. There's a choice that is made at some point.

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Do I push Him away and say, no, or do I open the door and say, yes, You can have my heart. I'll tell you one thing, this is not a deal where we're interested in taking our young people and brainwashing them with religion. That's no defense against the great rebellion.

Christianity is not a lifestyle. It's not a set of beliefs you embrace, and "belonging to a church," and participating in its activities and carrying on a certain lifestyle. There's only one thing that God is looking for. He is looking to take up residence in the heart and impart a brand-new life.

If Jesus has not come in, you've never been born again. If that never takes place, you are going to be swallowed up by this darkness that is overtaking our world. Sooner or later, it will overtake you and that is where your destiny will lie.

Oh God! I don't know, I somehow sense that His heart is reaching out and wanting to warn, wanting to cause people to recognize what's going on in the world, because it is a time to choose. It's a time when men are making up their minds.

I believe it's a time when God is going to reach out and pull in a harvest in the middle of all of this. God is absolutely not taken by surprise. There is no dismay in Heaven. There are no emergency meetings! God has everything exactly under control! But the way this is playing out is exactly the way it played out in Noah's day and also in Lot's day when he was brought out of Sodom.

Do you think there was anybody in Sodom that Lot could have gone to and explained all of this to? No! There was a point in time when their condition was sealed! There was nothing left to do but get Lot out and bring judgment!

That's going to be the way it is when Jesus comes! There won't be any gray area! There won't be any middle ground! Everyone will have totally identified themselves with Jesus, or they will have identified themselves with the world and they will be blind and shocked at that moment when He comes.

That's the reason God sends them a powerful delusion so that they will believe — now I noticed this years ago: it does not say they will believe "a" lie. This is not just any old lie. This is "the" lie. There is something specific. And if you will go all the way back to the beginning, what was the lie that the human race was sold?

You will not die. You will be as gods. You see the connection? There is the lie. If you will take an independent course, you will be like a god. You have the right to choose your own path, to do your own thing, and you shall be as gods. And you will have a race of people on this planet who will embrace that lie. And there will be people you will not be able to

explain this to. Folks, we're going to have to battle in prayer.

We're going to have to fight with God's armament, God's weapons. We have the privilege of standing in an amazing hour. And we have a God who will bring His people through. He will never leave us nor forsake us, not 'til the end of the age. But it's a challenging time. We're going to have to trust people into God's hands. We're going to have to pray, and pray that God, who alone can penetrate that darkness, will do it, and change hearts and break them out of the dungeons of sin that hold them in darkness.

But, oh praise God for what comes next! This is one of the glorious "buts" of scripture. All of these terrible things that He describes, this period of the time of the end that's coming, when evil will be allowed to reign and find full expression in the earth — "but!" And that's a message to everyone here that loves the Lord and knows Him today.

"But we ought always to thank God for you, brothers, loved by the Lord." (NIV). Doesn't that sound good? He doesn't say, all you righteous people who have measured up and earned your way into His favor. This is, "loved by the Lord." That's the amazing thing, when people embrace the darkness that is overspreading the world, what they are saying, no, to is not the anger and the dominion and the Spirit of God that wants to take over somebody's life and ruin it. It's the love of God! They're refusing it! They're saying, I will not bow!

But for those who bow, it's not to a tyrant: it's to Somebody who loves us with an everlasting love. God made us to love and to be loved. There are a lot of empty hearts out there, hearts that have been wounded. And God has the answer to every wound, every hurt, everything: it's His love. I'll tell you, when we open our hearts to that love and it begins to percolate out into all of the things that have affected us, what a glorious thing it is! Thank God! Loved by the Lord!

"... Because from the beginning God chose you to be saved, through the sanctifying work of the Spirit ...!" You see God coming to work in our hearts, God coming to knock on our door, God coming to convict us when we're going down the wrong path, God intervening in our lives!

You know what God said in Noah's day. He said, "My spirit shall not always strive with man." (KJV). But think what He is saying there. In spite of all of the things that were terrible, that were wrong with the society of that day, all the evil things that men were doing, God was still working! God was striving! God was there trying to resist, trying to convict, trying to speak! What a God we serve! That God is still at work. That God knows how to work with a heart, knows how to reach us, knows how to set us apart.

"... Through belief in the truth." (NIV). Folks, that's what we have in the world. We have the lie and we have the truth. And it's not just a set of doctrines. It's not a philosophy. It's not just my worldview versus yours, and they're all equally good. This is, Jesus Christ who is the truth and this lie that Satan has peddled, that you are really gods, and if you will take the independent course you will find your destiny. And that is what will separate the human race into two camps when Jesus comes.

But, "He called you to this through our gospel ..." Through the good news, why? "... That you might share in the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ." Folks, the challenge to God's people is that we take an uncompromising stand, not a hard-hearted, finger-pointing kind of thing, but an uncompromising stand with Jesus Christ, that we live in this world that we live in with an awareness of what's going on.

The messages that are coming through movies, the messages that are coming through the television, through — you name it — they permeate our society. They can soften our understanding of things, soften our convictions. But folks, we need to stand absolutely for the truth of God and pray for everyone that we have an influence on, pray for our young people, because it's not enough just to be brought up here and taught the stuff that we teach. You're going to have to have an encounter with Jesus Christ.

You're going to have to have an encounter where you surrender your heart. You say, oh God, come in, take my heart. It doesn't belong to me anymore. I surrender my heart and my life. That's why You made me in the first place. You made me because You want to love me and live with me and for me to live with You forever and ever. And I see what You've done to make that possible. The nail-scarred hands that were stretched out, were stretched out because of my sins. Oh, my God! That has got to become real!

It's got to become personal! Every heart is going to have to make a choice when it comes to this issue. I am with Him or I am with the world. There is a line. We've use that analogy before, the line drawn in the sand. If we are not seeing that in our day, when will we? It's almost been 50 years since some of these things have happened, about 50 years — since I was in college. It hardly seems possible. But I watched my generation absolutely going over the cliff and setting their hearts against God.

And then the Lord began to reveal what's really going on. It's not just something in society. There's a power, there's a demonic power that has reached out to men and God's taken His hands back and said, all right. This is a time to choose, because men are choosing an eternal destiny. Folks, if you know the Lord, praise God!

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A Time to Choose

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Praise God! As I say, you don't have to be strong, you don't have to be wise, you don't have to be anything, except to trust in Jesus with all of your heart! He will bring every one of His through! We will stand! We will share in this glory that He has promised!

But there is coming a day when God is going to balance the scales of justice. The wicked things that we see in this world, they will not be allowed to stand. They will be brought to an end. There won't be anybody that will be on the fence at that hour. Everyone will have made their choice. This is the time to choose, because there comes a time when God does take His hand off.

And I know the Devil loves to use that and say, well, you've gone too far. If there is something in you that has a desire toward God, you haven't gone too far. That's God encouraging you to put your trust in Him. The people that have gone too far don't care anymore. They don't have any real desire for God. If you have a desire for God, it comes because God is at work in your heart and it's because He loves you. You need to latch onto that with every ounce of your being!

You need to say, Devil, get out of here! I don't believe you! God's touching my heart! That means He's reaching out to me! That means He wants me! I want Him! I'm not going to listen to you!

It's a momentous hour that we live in. I have no idea how long this is going to go on. But, is it not accelerating? Do we not see a progression from day to day to day? It's just mind boggling! The headlines of today were unthinkable a year ago, some of them. And it's getting faster and faster.

But you know what, what did Jesus say? When you see these things, what are we supposed to do? Hang our heads? "Lift up your heads." Rejoice! The day of redemption is drawing nigh.

We live in a momentous hour. But I pray that everyone here, anybody that hears this, if you haven't made your choice, if God's knocked on the door of your heart, and you haven't really made a clear-cut stand where you're 100 percent with Him, you had better listen to this!

You had better listen! This is God. This is not just me. This is God, reaching out because He loves you. Because if you're not 100 percent with Him, then you are with the Devil. There's no way to mix the two. You can't have one foot in each kingdom. God is absolutely separating and we are seeing it, we're experiencing it. But oh, the hope that He has given to everyone who will put their trust in Him! Praise God!

Let's go forward and look to Him and ask Him for the grace to stand in an hour like

this, to never lose the sense that the God we serve, the Lord we serve, is on His throne! He will not abandon His own. He is going to come and He's going to come at exactly the right time. He's not in a rush because He's not willing that people perish, remember that?

See, it's His mercy that's holding back. It's His mercy that is giving every possible opportunity to men to make the right choice! But there will come a day when that choice will end. And He's going to come and everything will wind up. And everyone will stand before the judgment of God.

Oh, Praise God! I know I have no right in myself. There's no possible way I could qualify myself for any of this. I stand by the grace of God! Everybody who stands at all, stands by the grace and the mercy of God who has done everything necessary to open Heaven's door to us.

We have every reason to rejoice but we have reason to be sober too. Pay attention to what your kids are getting into. Pay attention to what's going on in schools, what's going on in colleges. You have no idea how the Devil is at work. But, I'll tell you, God is at work too, isn't He?

Let's just cast our lot with Him 100 percent. Praise God! Praise God!

My Yoke is Easy

Continued from Page 1

bring it to pass. He will bring it to pass.

"Delight thyself also in the Lord, and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart" (Psa. 37-4). I used to slide over that first part, hastily reminding the Lord that I was delighting myself in Him, and then spend my time yearning and longing for the desires of my heart. Such intense desires must be granted by their very intensity. But the intensity of my desires was not the condition of their fulfillment. "Delight thyself in the Lord." That is a pursuit worthy of time and eternity.

In delighting myself in the Lord, I am lost in His loveliness. I am so filled with love for my Saviour that I want whatever He wants with a consuming fire that burns out the dross of my own sin-tainted desires. Wanting only what will please Him, the Spirit of God prays within me the prayer of faith. I need not pry into His workings. He is bound by His Word to fulfill desires that have grown out of my delight in the Lord.

"No good thing will he withhold from them that walk uprightly" (Psa. 84:11). How I have dwelt on God's part of that promise! "No good thing will he withhold." No—good—thing. I should have been concentrating on walking uprightly. I wouldn't have to spend so much time reminding God of His promises if I spent more in fulfilling the conditions.

Talking one day with a dear woman who was smoking a cigarette at the time, and who

was badly tangled up in a false cult, I was astonished to hear her quote the Ninety-first Psalm—verse after verse of it, all those beautiful strong, all-sufficient promises to the one who dwells in the secret place of the Most High, under the shadow of the Almighty. I instantly recognized the incongruity of her misplaced trust in promises not meant for her. But had I been comforting myself with assurances of the Father's care, while wandering out from under His wings? I'm afraid I had, often.

We have all heard the unsaved, or the worldly Christian say, "Oh, well, 'All things work together for good.'" There is no period after good. The phrase that should concern us is, "to them that love God."

It was such a relief to me to discover that I do not have to work things out. I have only to love God. I can concentrate on that. I will worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness—clothed in the robes of His own righteousness—and leave the working to Him. Even when my life is a very busy one, all full of happenings, still the working is His. There is no fret or strain. I can sing His praises while He works in and through me. My meditation of Him shall be sweet. I will be glad in the Lord.

If I do not bring forth much fruit, I am not abiding in the vine. The tree planted by the rivers of water does nothing toward producing fruit but stay in the rich earth, drawing constantly upon its source of life.

I need not keep looking at those promises as if there were something the matter with them. The promises are true, but I am paying more attention to God's part than to mine. "Abide in me." Stay right there all the time, not only when I want something, but all the time. God's laws work and His Word cannot be broken.

The Word is full of promises to those who wait upon God. "They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength." (Isa. 40:31). We have so counted on that when we were weak and in need of strength. Yet we continue to faint and fall with the young men of the previous verse, because we have never learned what it means. Now, when I am weak, I do not worry about not having strength. I wait upon the Lord. It is a wonderful life—just waiting on God. It does not necessarily imply inactivity, though there should be quiet time before Him. It is a heart attitude. Wait upon the Lord. The miracle of renewed strength is the result of the working of the laws of the spiritual world. We need not agonize to be strong. We need to wait upon the Lord.

How free we are to live Heavenward! God will take care of our earthly needs, as well as of the heavenly, while we behold as in a glass the glory of the Lord and are changed into His image from glory to glory.

Do we want to be like Him? Behold the

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Emergency Phone Numbers

When in sorrow, call John 14.
 When men fail you, call Psalm 27.
 If you want to be fruitful, call John 15.
 When you have sinned, call Psalm 51.
 When you worry, call Matthew 6:19-34.
 When you are in danger, call Psalm 91.
 When God seems far away, call Psalm 139.
 When your faith needs stirring, call Hebrews 11.
 When you are lonely and fearful, call Psalm 23.
 When you grow bitter and critical, call 1 Cor. 13.
 For Paul's secret to happiness, call Col.3:12-17.
 For idea of Christianity, call 1 Cor. 5:15-19.
 When you feel down and out, call Romans 8:31.
 When you want peace and rest, call Matt.11:25-30.
 When the world seems bigger than God, call Psalm 90.
 When you leave home for labor or travel, call Psalm 121.
 When your prayers grow narrow and selfish, call Psalm 67.
 For a great invention/opportunity, call Isaiah 55.
 When you want courage for a task, call Joshua 1.
 How to get along with fellow men, call Romans 12.
 When you think of investments/returns, call Mark 10.
 If you are depressed, call Psalm 27.
 If your pocketbook is empty, call Psalm 37.
 If you're losing confidence in people, call 1 Cor. 13.
 If people seem unkind, call John 15.
 If discouraged about your work, call Psalm 126.
 If you find the world growing small and yourself great, call Psalm 19.

NOTE: EMERGENCY NUMBERS MAY BE DIALED DIRECT.

No operator assistance is necessary.

ALL LINES ARE OPEN TO HEAVEN 24 HOURS A DAY!

My Yoke is Easy

Continued from Page 6

glory of the Lord! We cannot behold without being changed.

I am so grateful to God that I have learned to concern myself primarily with my half of His promises, while rejoicing in the sure fulfillment of His half. He is faithful that promised. Oh may I be faithful!

BOOK CORNER

Delivered From Demons, by C. Parker Thomas

The story of a young girl's deliverance from demon possession and also a collection of a number of other articles relating to Satan's kingdom and activity, specially as it relates to the end of this present age. Suggested Price - \$6.50.

Does God Speak To You? by C. Parker Thomas

This booklet is composed of a wonderful series of articles published in the Midnight Cry Messenger during 1979. In this time of great spiritual darkness and deception what are the various ways in which He speaks and how can we learn to recognize His voice and respond? Suggested Price - \$3.50.

Examine Yourselves, By Phil Enlow

Paul said to "examine yourselves." There must be a way to do that. Can you say with Paul, "I know whom I have believed, and am convinced that he is able to guard what I have entrusted to him for that day." 2 Tim 1:12. Suggested Price - \$7.50

The Gospel, By Phil Enlow

What is the gospel? Everyone thinks they know--but do they? In this day of watered-down "easy-believism" it is critical to know what real salvation is. What was the gospel that Paul preached? Suggested Price - \$3.00

How Do You Know You Are Right? By Phil Enlow

A spiritual challenge. A study of spiritual knowledge and how it is acquired. This is an area of critical importance in this hour of spiritual darkness and deception. We cannot afford to blindly rest in tradition. Suggested Price - \$4.00

Immortality, By Phil Enlow

What does the Bible teach about immortality, the future of unbelievers, the future of God's people? From the eight-part series in the MCM. Suggested Price - \$5.00.

The Keys of the Kingdom, by C. Parker Thomas

A clear study of the keys as they apply to us in today's world. Suggested Price - \$3.00.

Light in This Present Darkness, by Phil Enlow

From the series in MCM. Message for God's Remnant in the earth regarding the present hour of darkness. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

Lying Signs and Wonders, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of articles concerning the end of the age exposing much deception as well as giving forth important truth needed by those who would be prepared for Christ's soon return. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

The Midnight Cry, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains two articles that set forth the truths concerning the midnight cry: what is it? who hears it? who makes it? what is its significance for us. A must for people who would understand this ministry. Suggested Price - \$1.00

Sex and Marriage in the Light of God's Word, by C. Parker Thomas

From a series of articles covering a whole range of scriptural and practical truth designed to help God's people in this important area. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

Sudden Death Overtime, by Phil Enlow

From the series published beginning in 2001. A look at our world and its prospects through biblical "glasses." What can we learn from history? What lies in our future? Why is the world like it is? Things every Christian should know. Suggested Price - \$7.00.

The Sure Foundation, by C. Parker Thomas

A collection of four articles published in the early 1980's on the important subject of the foundation believers have in Christ. Suggested Price - \$4.00.

Tongues: My Testimony, by C. Parker Thomas

Contains the article by the same name as well as an article entitled "Tongues Should be Tested" by Gerald McGraw in which he recounts lessons learned from testing to discover the spirit enabling someone to speak in tongues. Startling! Suggested price - \$3.00

What About Genesis? by Phil Enlow

How should we understand the Genesis accounts of the creation and the flood? Can a simple historical understanding of these accounts be defended in this age of scientific skepticism? Does it matter? Suggested Price - \$4.00.

What Does Deception Look Like? by Phil Enlow

Recognizing spiritual deception at the end of the age. What are its characteristics? Satan is waging all-out war and his chief weapon is the lie. As never before believers need to be grounded in bedrock truth. Suggested Price - \$9.95.

Your Adversary, By C. Parker Thomas

Awhile back, while looking through some of our oldest issues of the MCM, we uncovered this timely gem, published in about 1960! There is a simple directness and clarity in this teaching that will help anyone who desires to walk with the Lord and overcome in this hour. Suggested Price - \$2.50.

Note: The prices listed above are suggested with the thought in mind of simply covering the costs of printing and mailing these materials. It is not our intention to become "book-sellers," selling books for profit. Our desire is to get out truth that can help set God's people free in this critical hour. Please write to us at:

Midnight Cry Messenger

P.O. Box 685

Southern Pines, NC 28388 USA

The Christian Life: A Sheer Impossibility

Major Ian Thomas

“It is not difficult for man to live the Christian life,” somebody once said, *it is a sheer impossibility!*”

A sheer impossibility, that is, without CHRIST — but for *all that He says*, you have *all that He is*, and that is *all that it takes!*

The Christian life can only be explained in terms of Jesus Christ, and if your life as a Christian can still be explained in terms of *you, your personality, your willpower, your gift, your talent, your money, your courage, your scholarship, your dedication, your sacrifice, or your anything* — then although you may *have* the Christian life, you are not yet living it!

If the way you live your life as a Christian can be explained in terms of *you*, what have you to offer to the man who lives next door? The way he lives his life can be explained in terms of *him*, and so far as he is concerned, you happen to be “religious” — but he is not! “Christianity” may be *your* hobby, but it is not his, and there is nothing about the way you practice it which strikes him as at all remarkable! There is nothing about you which leaves him guessing, and nothing commendable of which he does not feel himself equally capable without the inconvenience of becoming a Christian!

It is only when your quality of life *baffles* the neighbors that you are likely to *impress* them! It has got to become patently obvious to others that the kind of life you are living is not only *commendable*, but that it is beyond all *human explanation!* That it is beyond the consequences of man’s capacity to *imitate*, and however little they may understand this, clearly the consequence only of God’s capacity to *reproduce Himself* in you!

In a nutshell, this means that your fellow-men must become convinced that the Lord Jesus Christ of whom you speak, is essentially Himself the ingredient of the Life you live!

From: *The Mystery of Godliness*

Notice to U.S. Subscribers

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1-800-273-2020 / midnightcry.org

That’s How I Roll

By Lawrence Peter Medici

*In this world we have heartache, sadness, and pain,
And sometimes, we just can’t get out of the rain,
But God is still faithful, He can make your life whole,
I know, because I love Him, and that’s how I roll.*

*I was always bad, from my youth,
Court records will show, that’s the truth,
Through sorrow and loss, I never cried,
I see now that was just foolish pride.*

*The life I lived caused so much pain,
But The Lamb of God was for me slain,
He pulled me out of Satan’s hole,
Now Jesus is my Savior, that’s how I roll.*

*I faced and fought so many foes,
And been through stuff nobody knows,
When I felt I couldn’t take no more,
I found myself in a spiritual war.*

*My sin and darkness took its toll,
The devil tried to steal my soul,
But Jesus came and took control,
Now He’s my Lord, that’s how I roll.*

*He showed me Love I’d never known,
Now in my heart, He’s on the throne,
My Hope is in His Mercy and Grace,
Someday soon I’ll see Him, face to face.*

*How can I find the words to tell,
What it means to be taken out of hell?
That even in prison, I am Free,
Only Jesus could save a man like me.*

*He Promised He would never go,
And in this life, that’s all I know,
By Faith I trust Him, every day,
He is the Truth, the Life, the Way.*

*I serve Jesus in prison,
And Heaven is the goal,
I’ll Praise Him forever,
Because that’s how I roll.*

Matthew 24:14 — “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in the whole world as a testimony to all nations, and then the end will come.”

COMING EVENTS

June Convention
June 20-23, 2018
Lake City, Florida

Broadcasts

RADIO STATIONS

Monday - Friday

Stat.	Freq.	Location	Time
KXEG	1280 AM	Phoenix, AZ	9:00 AM
WEMM	107.9 FM	Huntington, WV	11:00 AM
WWVA	1170 AM	Wheeling, WV	9:30 PM

Short Wave Radio

WHRI ANGEL 1

Australia/New Zealand
Mon.-Fri.: 0900 UTC - 12.015 Mhz

East/Central Africa
Mon.-Fri.: 1600 UTC - 21.610 Mhz

Caribbean/Central & South America
Mon.-Fri.: 2315 UTC - 7.315 Mhz

WHRI ANGEL 2

East North America
Tues.-Sat.: 0015 UTC - 5.920 Mhz

KWHR ANGEL 3

China - Mon.-Fri.: 0915 UTC - 9.930 Mhz

Bonus Airings on Webstreaming

Angel 2 - Off Air-Streaming Only - 2000-2015

Angel 3 - Off Air-Streaming Only - 1715-1730

For a current schedule of “Angel” stations go to lesea.com/whr/program-schedules/, scroll down to “Detailed Schedule Search,” enter Midnight Cry for the program title and then click “Start Search.”

Television Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

Local Broadcasts

Albuquerque, NM - KAZQ - TV 32
Sun. 7:30 AM

Chicago, IL - WJYS TV-62
Sun. 7:00 AM

Dallas/Forth Worth - KTXD TV-47
Sun. 8:00 AM

Greenville, SC - WGGS TV-16
Sun. 7:00 PM

Jacksonville, FL - WTLV - Ch. 12 HD
Sun. 6:00 AM

Los Angeles, CA - KDOC-TV 56
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Minneapolis, MN - WUCW-TV CW23
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

Phoenix, AZ - KASW-TV CW6
Sunday, 6:30 A.M.

San Francisco, Oakland, California
KBCW TV-44 - Sunday, 6:00 A.M.

TV Network Broadcast

— (30 Minutes Weekly) —

The NRB Network (DirecTV 378)

Sunday - 6:30 AM Eastern
Monday - 3:30 AM Eastern

VTN - Little Rock Arkansas

Online or Cable
Sunday - 1:30 PM Central

SacFaith TV - Sacramento, CA

Monday - 8:00 AM Pacific Time
Tuesday - 8:30 PM Pacific Time

Watch Online or on Cable Channels
Comcast 20 / AT&T 14 / Consolidated 19

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