

Daily Devotional, November 5, 2020 A Gift of Hope

But mark this: There will be terrible times in the last days. ² People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boastful, proud, abusive, disobedient to their parents, ungrateful, unholy, ³ without love, unforgiving, slanderous, without self-control, brutal, not lovers of the good, ⁴ treacherous, rash, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— ⁵ having a form of godliness but denying its power. Have nothing to do with such people. 2 Timothy 3:1-5 (NIV)

Whenever we are encouraging people to be generous in their giving back to God today, the response we get may be something like, “Are you out of your mind? Don’t you have access to the internet, a radio or a television set? These are really hard times, friend. I’m barely scraping by!”

Yes, times are hard, unparalleled. I have not seen anything like this ever in my lifetime. I have heard the stories of those who endured the dark days of the Great Depression and WWII but not in a million years would I have thought that such days would again reoccur, but here they are. Just like it was for residents of the 1930s and ‘40s. The economy is in peril. People are losing their jobs, their savings. Anxiety levels are through the roof. Yes, both you and I are caught in the vise and are feeling the pressure as COVID–19 appears to tighten her grip more and more each and every day.

Thinking biblically, is it possible that the apostle Paul may have had a time like today in mind when he wrote the two books of Timothy? It could be, but I am not looking to scripture today in terms of a prophet of doom, but for hope. And what I find is the same guy who warned of perilous times such as these also said: ***And my God will meet all your needs according to the riches of his glory in Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:19 (NIV)***

What that shows to me is this: Regardless of how tight the grip COVID–19 has on the world today, the promises of scripture are sure, and God’s grip on his children is secure. I love what the psalmist had to say about perilous times: ***I have been young, and now am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his children begging for bread.— Psalm 37:25 (NIV)***

Doesn’t that verse brim with hope? Don’t you feel a reassuring sense of peace and calm as you read David’s words in this psalm? I do. Yes, the days are indeed perilous and may well be a forerunner to our Lord’s promised and imminent return, and that’s okay. For, in Jesus, God has built an ark of safety and all are invited to come aboard and take refuge in Him.

Friends, in this hour, the thing needed most is for every believer to be strengthened in their faith and thoroughly equipped to get the word out to others before the door is shut and the ark sets sail. So right now, the church needs the faithful to be faithful as never before. The fact that people are hurting, socially isolated, losing their jobs, their savings, and so very much more is all the more reason for you and I to give generously that the church might continue to be the church, fulfilling its mission to alleviate suffering throughout the world. It’s what we do here at Hope. We bring hope!

Prayer: Father, Thank you that in a world of despair, You are our Hope. In a world of darkness, You are our Light. In a world of sorrow, You are our joy. Help us to share the Hope of our hearts with one another Enable us to give Hope to others through Your work amongst us. Use us to transform our nation and to spread Your Hope to every corner of this nation. May our land flourish by the preaching of Your word and the praising of Your name. In Jesus Name. Amen.