

If Ever There Was A Time, It Is Now

The Bible is called the Word of Truth. This has stood through the ages as an undeniable fact. It possesses the unique, unrivaled, and solitary ability to speak to the hearts of people and the circumstances of life as does no other book in the world.

"Now is the time for all good men to come to the aid of their country." So wrote Charles E. Weller in 1867 as a simple exercise in warming up his fingers for using a newfangled invention call the typewriter. Little could he have known how perpetually relevant the spontaneous and unadorned sentence would be through the decades. As we look at this particular period of time in our history, certainly no one can fail to see its timeliness for us today.

If ever there was a time for those of us who profess faith in Christ, who are by His own pronouncement "the salt of the earth, the light of the world, a city set on a hill" – if ever there was a time to let our light so shine before men that they may see our good works and glorify our Father in Heaven, it is now. If ever there was a time to do all things without murmuring and disputing, so that we might be blameless and harmless, the sons of God without rebuke in the midst of a wicked and perverse generation, it is now.

If ever there was a time for the redeemed of the Lord to say so, it is now. If ever there was a time to stir up the gift that is in us, no longer ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor drawing back for fear of rejection and ridicule, it is now. If ever there was a time to hold fast the pattern of sound words, standing in the grace of Christ and enduring hardships as good soldiers, it is now.

If ever there was a time to shun profane and vain babblings and to flee youthful lusts, it is now. If ever there was a time for diligence in presenting our case for Christ with dignity, it is now. If ever there was a time for private piety to become public virtue, it is now.

In the front of an old family Bible, I found these words years ago, and if ever there was a time in which they bear repeating, it is now:

This Book contains the mind of God, the state of man, the way of salvation, the doom of sinners, and the happiness of believers. Its doctrines are holy, it's precepts are binding, its histories are true, and its decisions are immutable.

Read it to be wise believe it to be safe, and practice it to be holy. It contains light to direct you, food to support you, and comfort to cheer you. It is the traveler's map, the pilgrim's staff, the pilot's compass, the soldier's sword, and the Christian's charter. Here Paradise is restored, Heaven opened and the Gates of Hell disclosed.

Christ is its Grand Subject, our good its design, and the Glory of God its end. It should fill the memory, rule the heart, and guide the feet.

Read it slowly, frequently, and prayerfully. It is a mine of wealth, a paradise of glory, and a river of pleasure. It is given you in life, will be opened at the judgment, and be remembered forever. It involves the highest responsibility, rewards the greatest labor and condemns all who trifle with its holy contents.

This volume is the Word of God.

There are great blessings that abound in the lives of those who love and follow the Word of God. And those who reject it do so to their own harm. That is true of individuals as well as nations. If ever there was a time that was true, it is most assuredly now.

May you cherish the Bible, and let the Spirit of God write its words upon the tablets of your heart. May your feet be found walking in its ways, your hands engaged in labor according to its high standards. May it frame the content of your speech and hold the harness of your desires. May your dreams be enkindled by its precepts and your ambitions steered by its unerring compass.

The apostle Paul, while in prison for preaching the Gospel, wrote, "but the word of God is not imprisoned" (2 Timothy 2:9). There is great irony in the fact that when the powers of darkness orchestrated the imprisonment of Paul through the efforts of religious fanatics, his imprisonment became the occasion for the unleashing of the Word of God. Had Paul *not* been locked up, there is good evidence to conclude that we would not have much of the New Testament as we know it today. Though Paul was bound in chains when he wrote it, there are no prison bars strong enough to hold back God's Word from anyone anywhere. Thus, you hold it in your hands even now.

If ever there was a time for the Word of God to be freshly unleashed...

it is now!

(From the Introduction to the Founder's Bible)