The Church In the Last Days #1
Perilous Times Are Here
2 Timothy 3:17

The Word of God teaches us that in the "last days perilous times shall come." I stand before you today to proclaim that never before in the history of man has such potential existed for our own destruction. Hydrogen bombs are so powerful that they require an atomic bomb to detonate them! Scientists claim that if a large hydrogen bomb ever exploded in our earth's atmosphere, the shock wave could cause an imbalance, which would bring civilization, as we know it, to a standstill.

Times have always been perilous, but I am convinced that this is The Perilous Times.

Men and women "without natural affection" are engaging in homosexual and lesbian activity despite the endtime generation's plague of AIDS. AIDS infected people who are "lovers of pleasure" continue to have sex at any cost (many with multiple partners), without ever informing them about their HIV infections. These "lovers of their own selves" want self-gratification in sex even if it means death to their partners!

We have never seen a time quite like this.

Prominent intellectuals and their equally prominent fellow travelers in the media teach that every value and every culture are equally valid. And the result is the secular media has become open "despises of those that are good, " constantly showing Christianity in a negative light and refusing to depict any Christian as intelligent, warm, considerate, or loving.

America was founded on a strong belief in the guiding hand of God, yet that belief is being pushed aside by those who have a religion of selfinterest and selfindulgence. The message of the last decade in America has been "do your own thing" and "just be happy," yet we suddenly have awakened to a nation where prayer is yanked out of schools, nativity scenes are forbidden in our parks, and songs about Jesus cannot be sung at any public school Christmas celebration.

America is becoming a moral wasteland, where half of all marriages end in divorce where men and women who have become "lovers of their own selves" are willing to sacrifice their marriage covenants on the altar of self-indulgent pleasure.
Our country is exploding with "growth groups" that put you "in touch" with the god-you ... not the God of the Bible, but the "you" who is supposedly a god. They talk about inner strength, inner self-fulfillment, and hundreds of other lofty sounding terms. The stark reality is they do not know God, and only portray a "form of godliness."

Children of God, we have never seen a day like today!

America has stopped making any moral sense! We have the most modern technological advances to save lives in the history of the universe, yet ... one unborn child is aborted every 21 seconds that tick on the clock. That means that in one hour four times more babies are killed through abortion than was killed at Columbine, Colorado and Sandy Hook School put together! And yet, our government has not called for a ban on abortion!

Our government continues to grow and spend out of control. As government had grown, our liberties have gotten smaller. The loss is often just a petty inconvenience: a new form to fill out, a new permit or regulation, or a new tax. What our forefathers designed for our good, seems to be developing into a very scary political monster.

We talk about "brotherly love," and yet, the boiling, brewing pot of racial hatred explodes time and time again across this "land of the free and home of the brave." It is time for we as Christians to refuse to allow our future to be dominated or dictated to by the flesh, according to human limitations.

It is time for the Church of the living God to lift our eyes beyond the seen into the unseen; we must see what cannot be seen, and hear what cannot be heard. 2 Corinthians 4:18 says, "For we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal." This is a paradox. How do we look at something that cannot be seen? The answer is simple through the eyes of faith!

Paul was a man who how to survive the perils of perilous times, a man who knew there was hope beyond the scope of humanity for him and for everyone that he came in contact with.

Child of God, we must get beyond the mentality that "all I have to do is get up in the morning and rebuke the devil." It is true that James 4:7 says to "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you." But that is not the entire story. The entire verse reads this way, "Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you."
Ladies and gentlemen, the Word of God reminds us that submitting comes before the fleeing! Submitting says, “I yield my control to God. I will not longer take the Word of God and try to get my own way with it.” In these last days, Jesus is looking for people who will stand up for Him, even when the enemy sends a cup of sorrow their way, even when the enemy says, "You are a marked man or woman."

If you think you are going to tiptoe through the tulips and never experience a cup of sorrow, or never experience a perilous time, or never feel like the heaven are brass ... then you have made a serious, tragic mistake! You have underestimated the fact that the church is at war!!

Child of God, today people are walking through the fiery furnace. The devil is on the rampage. Some of you are facing the greatest trials and conflicts of your life and you are not alone. Marriages, families, churches are all under attack today.

Do you know what you have to hold onto to survive the perils of perilous times? Jesus Christ, the Lord of glory! When you do not know where to turn, the only way to turn is up!! When you do not know what to do, the first thing to do is pray!! Paul put it this way in Philippians 3:1314, "Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

In that passage, Paul was telling the Philippians, "I am fastening my eyes on Christ. If you want to follow anything, follow the way I am following Him. Do not follow me, but follow my following. Follow the way that I trust in Him when I am walking through the fire. Follow the way I reach out for a hand bigger than my hand. Follow my following."

If we are going to be the Church in the Last Days, we must learn how to survive.

In Russia, the holy Bible can be taught in the classrooms; but in America, a public school teacher cannot even put a copy of the Ten Commandments up in the classroom.

We must learn to survive.

Women's rights groups can freely demonstrate in public forums without criticisms; but when Christians mobilize, we are accused by the media of trying to "force" our will on others.
We must learn to survive.

It is only in our surviving that the victory that is beyond the scope of humanity is proven to a skeptical world. The world must see that we are different!! They must realize that "we are more than conquerors through Him that loved us."

Hebrews 12:22 says, "But ye are come unto mount Zion, and unto the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to an innumerable company of angels." That verse tells us that through the new birth, we have come into the realm of the Spirit, which lies beyond the horizon of human perception; and the only way for you to access that realm is in the power of the Holy Spirit.

When Paul found himself imprisoned in the sewage systems of Rome, he made this statement as recorded in Ephesians 1:3, "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ." Paul was not sitting in his mansion with a multitude of servants, eating fruit on stems and drinking mineral water! He was in prison! But Paul said, "God has raised me up!"

To survive the perils of perilous times, and to be the Church in the Last Days, we have to learn that our natural circumstances do not dictate our spiritual attitude!! Your body can be in the natural in the flatlands with the turkeys while your spirit is soaring across the snowcapped peaks of mighty mountains with the eagle nature of the Holy Spirit of God!

Child of God, if we are to be the Church in the Last Days, we must know to look past where we are today! We must not focus our eyes on "the things which are seen, but (on) the things which are not seen." We must look through the eyes of faith, if we are to walk in victory!

When His Son lay wrapped in grave clothes in the borrowed tomb of Joseph of Arimathaea, and while the demon hordes howled and cackled in the presence of the "Prince of the air," God did not hang His head. And when Satan had done his worst to the best that heaven had to offer, God raised Him from the dead, proving and loudly proclaiming there is hope beyond the confines of mortality!

Linda and I have a “Time Share” in Panama City Beach, Florida and we love to go to the beach late in the afternoon and just walk along the seashore. Sometimes we stand on the sandy shore and look out as far as our eyes could see to that place where heaven kisses earth and the sea caresses the glory of the heavens, and there would be nothing but the beauty of the sea. But
suddenly on the horizon you could see something pop up, seemingly from nowhere. **It was there all the time, but it was beyond the sight of the natural eyes!!** The promises of God's Word are just like that!! They are out there, just beyond the reach of the natural eye. They have to be seen by the eyes of faith!

**Jesus was the seed of David according to the flesh, but just over the horizon, just beyond what could be seen with human eyes, was the miraculous resurrection from the dead!** He surfaced beyond the border of mortal man's domain when He kicked the end out of the grave and resurrected with power, triumphing over death, hell, and the grave!!

**Child of God, if we are going to be the Church in the Last Days, we must have a hope beyond the scope of human limitation!** But, listen to me today, we are never going to experience that hope as long as we are content to look, and to live, in the natural all the time and live the Christian life according to our feelings.

The Bible tells us in 2 Corinthians 4:16, **“Therefore we do not lose heart. Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward man is being renewed day by day.”** Child of God, the world, the flesh, and the devil, cannot take the security that we have in Christ Jesus!

If you are not saved, why not today?

**Please stand for prayer.**

Father,

Your Word is true and points us to the reality of where we are in the realm of prophecy. Give us the courage to walk by faith and not by sight as we allow our lights to shine in this world of darkness.