GOD'S WILL FOR YOU "IN THIS SEASON OF EVIL"

By: Phillip Hayes

And have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness, but rather reprove them. For it is a shame even to speak of those things which are done of them in secret. But all things that are reproved are made manifest by the light: for whatsoever doth make manifest is light. Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light. See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is. (Ephesians 5:11-17)

To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven. [Ecclesiastes 3:1]

"To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under heaven." I wonder how many have really awakened to the season we are now in?

A few years ago the Spirit of the Lord spoke these words to me, "Redeem your time, for the days are evil." With all that has happened since, I believe we have very little time left to live and work for Jesus. Darkness is dominating the world. The night is upon us!

Ephesians 5:16 and Colossians 4:5 came to me that morning. The word redeeming in both passages means: *"to improve opportunity"*. I believe the Lord was telling me to,

"value my every hour on this earth". It means we should make the most out of every opportunity. To make the best use of our time, particularly in these last days for the scripture says, "Because the days are evil." I believe we have entered a season of evil like it was in the days of Noah!

There is little doubt in my mind that the peace, happiness and abundant life the Bible speaks about has eluded the grasp of most Christians. If you would be honest with yourself, you may be one of them.

I believe we are all in a battle. We are suppose to be fighting against evil spiritual powers and rulers of darkness. "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. [Ephesians 6:12] Yes, there is a war going on in the heavenlies, make no doubt about it and you and I are in the midst of the battle.

However, the reason many are filled with doubts, fears, confusion, and disillusionment is not because of spiritual warfare with the devil! I believe it is because we fail to fight against a foe that we seldom recognize.

Let me be frank. I believe most of what we go through in this life is because we fail to fight against our carnal minds and will (the flesh). Our flesh is in warfare with God, not the devil! If we do not confront our problem with the flesh, we will never have the abundant life Jesus promised and we will certainly not win the spiritual battle that surrounds us.

Our Lord confronted His flesh numerous times and each time He was able to defeat His flesh because of His dedication to prayer and fasting which allowed Him to maintain complete surrender to the will of His Father.

There is no other way! Without a sold out life style, you will fail God! Your flesh (your will) will rule your life and

rather than having the will of God directing you, your flesh will dictate your every decision.

Jesus testified, "Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak." [Matthew 26:41] The flesh is weak! How many times in your life have you been aware of the same? How many times in your life have you given over to your will, and found yourself in a mess?

After committing sin, I have heard people say, "The devil made me do it" or "Satan's sure giving me a hard time" or "I've really been fighting the devil today." Well, are you sure it was the devil or was it your flesh? The Bible is very clear about all this: "Let no man say when he is tempted, I am tempted of God: for God cannot be tempted with evil, neither tempteth he any man: But every man is tempted, when he is drawn away of his own lust, and enticed. Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death. Do not err, my beloved brethren." [James 1:13-16]

Too many times we have blamed the devil for our own short comings. I don't believe God tempted you, and neither did the devil! You committed sin, when you were enticed and drawn away of your *own* lusts. You did it! You failed to walk in the spirit! You walked in the flesh and you sinned! And, because you sinned, you are in danger of death if you don't repent!

It's time to quit using God's love and Grace as if He gives permission to justify your lusts and sins. It's time to re-commit your whole life, both body, soul and spirit to God. It's time to quit sinning!

Yes, it's time to return to a fully dedicated crucified life committed solely to our Lord Jesus Christ. It's time to take responsibility for our own failures and quit blaming everyone else. It's time to get real!

As I said before, I know we are in a spiritual battle. Our warfare is in the spirit realm where we should be contending for the faith once delivered. Our battle is against the devil's power of deception! All God's Elect should be struggling to get back to the original unadulterated teaching of Jesus and the Apostles. We should be forsaking all the commandments and traditions of men and clinging solely to God's Holy Word.

But, this is not all we should do! We should never fail to re-dedicate our very lives to Christ each and every day. Do you "take up the cross daily?" Do you, "put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provisions for your flesh" every day? Are you walking in the spirit each and every day?

What time is it? I believe this is the last time! Our time is running out and Jesus is about to descend out of Heaven with a shout. Are you ready or has your flesh dominated you and you are walking in your own will?

Something rises up in me every time I think about the false gospel that is preached today. When I listen to the radio or television preachers of today my very soul is vexed! Prosperity, materialism and self improvement is all you hear. You hear absolutely nothing about a dedicated life or taking up the cross.

The message heard today is far removed from the teaching of Jesus and the Apostles! When is the last time you heard a television minister tell the people they should not love the world, or the things that are in the world? I'll answer that for you, "Never"! They don't preach holiness and godly living and you know it! Their message is the world! You can have it all!

You better make up your mind that you are going to follow the Word of God and not man!

The Apostle John said, "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world,

the love of the Father is not in him." For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." [1John 2:15-17]

As far as I am concerned the Apostle John is right and these false preachers today are wrong. You want the will of God? If you do, then you will have to crucify your flesh and deal with this thing called lust! You can't love the world and God also!

So, your number one enemy is you! That's right, you, your ways, your flesh, your lusts!

Jesus and the Apostles had the answer. They knew the carnal man (the flesh) had to die before lost man could And, believe it or not, man would have to crucify himself! Jesus denied Himself, and for man to live he would have to do the same. Look at Galatians chapter five, verses sixteen through twenty-one: "This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, Idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, Envyings, murders, drunkenness, revellings, and such like: of the which I tell you before, as I have also told you in time past, that they which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God."

The Apostle Paul is very clear concerning the works of the flesh. Although we are saved by God's Grace, if we continue to walk in the flesh, we will not inherit the kingdom of God. It will be a very sad day when we face our Lord in Judgment if we have failed to obey His Word.

I am persuaded that most of you that read this article started out with the Lord fully dedicated and on fire for the Lord. I believe you were excited and couldn't wait to go to church, or a prayer meeting, or revival. I believe you fasted often and prayed daily. I believe you were very careful how you behaved and appeared to others. I believe you started out "walking in the Spirit"! But something happened. Things changed. You began to miss a church service every once in awhile. You didn't pray as often as you used to. The people you once avoided after giving your life to the Lord started coming around again. Somehow, you felt happier! Yes, you did feel better. You still liked church but you didn't want to hear all that hell fire and brimstone preaching you used to hear. That new church you found was really where it's at. The praise and worship was fantastic, and the Christian rap was especially awesome. The Pastor didn't even wear a suit and tie! You especially loved his cool manner of dress and appearance; spiked hair cut, shirt tail hanging out, and those cool blue jeans with holes and tears in them. Why, he must have paid at least two hundred dollars for those jeans! What's more, He uses the latest Bible version instead of that old King James Version.

It seemed like you have everything you always wanted. More money, a new house, a new wife, and a great new car. Your old friends had come back around and they liked your new church too. God was really blessing you, you thought.

My friend, if I am describing you, you are backslid and on a downward road that will lead you to hell. But, it's not too late to turn around and return to the Truth. The Truth is still available to set you free! Dust off that old King James Version Bible sitting on your coffee table, read it and

ask God to reveal His Divine will for your life.

I believe we are living in the evil day or the day of the Lord the scriptures warn us about!

Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. [Ephesians 6:11-13]

Children of God, one would have to be living on another planet, to not realize we are at the end time! The signs are everywhere! Every day that passes it seems we read of more bizarre evils than the day before. The hideous crimes being committed in our time are without question influenced by the demonic. No normal human being would commit the awful acts we see on television and read about in our newspapers every single day.

Governments are in turmoil, entire countries are in chaos because of the moral bankruptcy of the world's leaders and citizens. Demon possessed radicals beheading innocent men, women and children. Diseases worse than aids are now being manifested in a world mad with sin and corruption. One of these plagues that have been reported eats away the flesh of humans at a rate of an inch per hour and kills within a very short time. And the greatest physicians and scientists in the world are bewildered as to how these diseases can be cured. And children of God, I believe much more is coming . . . for we are at the end time when men will wax worse and worse!

As I wrote earlier, we are in a season of evil the world has not seen since the time of Noah and Sodom.

As we look about us, we see the entire world reeling

and rocking under the awful disease of sin. Many have prophesied of the coming destruction of America. America's liberal leaders mock Christians and God's ministers on a day to day basis with their determination to pass legislation contrary to God's laws. Concerned ministers and laymen have warned and rebuked our government for its stand in favor of homosexuality and abortion while many of our well known protestant ministers continue to be silent about these issues.

It's not just the United States! The morals of the entire world are totally corrupt before a Holy God. The public school systems of the world have rejected God's Holy Laws and His Son Jesus Christ, and have become major breeding places of satanism, humanism, the occult, atheism, worldliness, sexual permissiveness, perversion, murder and hate. Home schooling use to be an option for Christians, but because public schools have become so corrupt and evil, home schooling is now considered a commandment from God by many concerned Christian parents.

Modern teachers of carnal prosperity and worldliness have corrupted many that once walked and lived a sold out lifestyle. Very few churches are committed to world evangelism. Fasting and prayer seems to be a thing of the past. When I preach on self-denial people look at me as though I was from another planet! You would think it would be different with all that is taking place today, but its not!

We must value every day, because the days are evil. God is now pouring out His great judgements and it is beginning at the House of God. Never in recent memory have we seen such a shaking and sifting among God's people! The message of separation from the world, restoration and perfection will separate the sheep from the goats!

The scriptures tell us, "awake thou that sleepest" and

"we should walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise". That word circumspectly means to be <u>extremely careful</u>, to look carefully how you walk. And then the scripture says, redeem the time!

I have preached from coast to coast and will continue as long as God gives me strength and makes a way for me.

Everywhere I minister, I warn every man to put on the Lord Jesus Christ and make no provision for the flesh. My entire ministry is devoted to preparing a people for the coming of the Lord Jesus. To get you ready! And children of God, you will not be ready if you fail to redeem the time we have left!

I beg you to make every moment count! This is what keeps me going, trying to reach all that I can with this last day message; that you might be ready for the coming of lesus.

This is the will of the Lord for you! To watch and pray! To be a flame of fire! To be prayed up, fasted up, and prepared in the Holy Ghost for what is coming, that you may go up.

Take ye heed, watch and pray: for ye know not when the time is. [Mark 13:33]

We are to watch! Be careful, walk circumspectly! The time is at hand that every one that names the name of Christ should depart from iniquity. You cannot watch for those things that are spiritual while you are running with the world. You watch by praying, fasting and seeking God.

For these be the days of vengeance, that all things which are written may be fulfilled. [Luke 21:22] For as a snare shall it come on all them that dwell on the face of the whole earth. Watch ye therefore, and pray always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man. [Luke 21:35-36]

Jesus said, "PRAY ALWAYS" Pray always? Yes! "Casting down imaginations, and every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ." [2Corinthians 10:5] Bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ! Our minds must be in complete subjection to the Holy Spirit. In an hour when few are sold out to Jesus, I must warn all that without a life totally committed to Christ, you will fall in this time of evil. It is not time to draw back. It is time to go forward.

Are you redeeming your time my friends? You must realize there is nothing you can do in this life that will count for anything except what you do for God. Billions are lost! The end is upon us! Are you walking circumspectly in the Holy Ghost giving no place to the devil? Are you still laying up treasures on this earth?

As I look about me, I realize that the only thing of real value in this old world is the Word of God that is before me. Within its pages is the only hope for the world. As we journey across the land preaching, teaching, prophesying and singing the praises of our God, please keep us lifted up in prayer as there are many adversaries. We certainly have little time to reach the cold, the backslid and the lost.

Our time is running out. It's time to turn it all around. The season of evil is upon us. The enemy may have deceived you into thinking you can love the world and have Jesus too, but he is a liar and the father of lies.

Turn around my friend! Repent of your foolishness and lustful ways and begin walking in the Spirit as you once did. For in the Spirit, you will re-discover the abundant life Jesus promised.

And they that are Christ's have crucified the flesh with the affections and lusts. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. [Galatians 5:24-25]