**God Has Raised You Up, In This Time, for His Purpose**

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**Introduction:**

The World is in a precarious state.

41% of all Americans believe we are living in the last days.

The number is much higher when you ask believers in Christ. (71%).

**God has a plan** and it will work out perfectly in the end days. As we see wickedness get worse and worse, we need to **make sure we stay rooted and grounded in God’s Word and make sure we keep our relationship with God strong.**

Evil doers will get worse and worse but we must realize that our God’s **grace will abound even more**!

**Romans 5:20**

God's law was given so that all people could see how sinful they were. But as people sinned more and more, God's wonderful grace became more abundant.

**Satan is the god of this world (world system)**

**We shouldn’t be so amazed at the evil we see in the world, it is all driven by Satan and demons. Even they know they have but a short time!**

**2 Cor. 4:4**

Satan, who is the god of this world, has blinded the minds of those who don't believe. They are unable to see the glorious light of the Good News. They don't understand this message about the glory of Christ, who is the exact likeness of God.

**Ephesians 6:12-13 (KJV)**
12  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*. 13  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.

**Zechariah 4:6 (KJV)**
6  Then he answered and spake unto me, saying, This *is* the word of the LORD unto Zerubbabel, saying, **Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, saith the LORD of hosts.**

Islam’s answer to make people believers is to threaten them with death and they also put ridiculous taxes on unbelievers. They are doing horrendous things and the whole earth shudders.

The Christian answer is to draw you to Him through His goodness:

**Romans 2:4**

Don't you see how wonderfully kind, tolerant, and patient God is with you? Does this mean nothing to you? Can't you see that his **kindness is intended to turn you from your sin? (His Goodness leads to repentance.)**

**As these evil muslims get worse, we should be more determined to take Jesus Christ to the world!!!**

**I believe the Church is in the same state as the church at Laodicea.**

 **We are afraid to OFFEND anyone**

**We are afraid of what people might think if we share what is RIGHT!**

**We should be vocal, we should be active, we should be militant for Christ!**

**“Once we become a Believer, we should no longer have a will of our own!”**

**Paul was a “bond-servant”. A SLAVE BY HIS OWN CHOICE and FREE WILL!**

**God is looking for those who will sell out COMPLETELY to Him and be warriors for Him in His ARMY!**

**2 Chronicles 16:9a (KJV)**
9  For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself strong in the behalf of *them* whose heart *is* perfect toward him.

**Who will answer the call? And DO NOT say you are too old!**

**Let Caleb be your EXAMPLE!**

**Joshua 14:10-13**

“Now, as you can see, the Lord has kept me alive and well as he promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old. 11I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then. 12So give me the hill country that the Lord promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the Lord is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the Lord said.”

**13So Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave Hebron to him as his portion of land.**

**The Message to the Church in Laodicea**

**Revelation 3**:14“Write this letter to the angel of the church in Laodicea. This is the message from the one who is the Amen—the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God’s new creation:

15“I know all the things you do, that **you are neither hot nor cold**. I wish that you were **one or the other!** 16But since you are like lukewarm water, neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth! 17You say, ‘I am rich. I have everything I want. I don’t need a thing!’ And you don’t realize that you are wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked. 18So I advise you to buy gold from me—gold that has been purified by fire. Then you will be rich. Also buy white garments from me so you will not be shamed by your nakedness, and ointment for your eyes so you will be able to see. **19I correct and discipline everyone I love. So be diligent and turn from your indifference.**

20“Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends. 21Those who are victorious will sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat with my Father on his throne.

22“Anyone with ears to hear must listen to the Spirit and understand what he is saying to the churches.”

There are FIVE things about the Laodiceans we need to see here.

1. Their WORKS showed what their relationship with God was like. (3:15).
	1. “I know your works”
2. They were neither COLD nor HOT.
3. They were LUKEWARM and nauseating to God. V16
4. They were PROUD and “self-satisfied.”
	1. They trusted in themselves more than God.
	2. They seemed to have it all but they had nothing.
5. They were IGNORANT of the STATE they were in.

**You were born for a time such as this! God has a purpose for you life in these end times!**

**Mordecai speaking to Esther:**

**ESTHER 4:14**

If you keep quiet at a time like this, deliverance and relief for the Jews will arise from some other place, but you and your relatives will die. Who knows if perhaps you were made queen **for just such a time as this?”**

**God has placed you in this time and this place for a reason.**

Do you think we are in the last days?

Do you think God put you here, in this time and in this place for a reason?

**I believe Satan knows we are in the last days and one of the things he wants to do is to get you and I to where we are LUKEWARM Christians.**

One day, Jesus was sitting among the disciples and they began to question Him about the end times.

**Mattew 24**: 4Jesus told them, “Don’t let anyone mislead you, 5for many will come in my name, claiming, ‘I am the Messiah.’ They will deceive many. 6And you will hear of wars and threats of wars, but don’t panic. Yes, these things must take place, but the end won’t follow immediately. 7Nation will go to war against nation, and kingdom against kingdom. There will be famines and earthquakes in many parts of the world. **8But all this is only the first of the birth pains, with more to come. (beginning of sorrows in KJV).**

9“**Then you will be arrested, persecuted, and killed**. You will be **hated** all over the world because you are my followers. 10And many will turn **away from me and betray and hate each other**. 11And many false prophets will appear and will deceive many people. 12**Sin will be rampant everywhere**, and the love of many will grow cold. **13But the one who endures to the end will be saved.** 14And the Good News about the Kingdom will be preached throughout the whole world, so that all nations will hear it; and then the end will come.

**How do we become HOT again for the Lord?**

 **Have you lost that fervor that you once had for the Lord?**

**Maybe you don’t “FEEL” like you once did about serving the Lord.**

**Illustration: About three years after I was baptized in the Holy Spirit and had a very REAL and powerful experience with the Lord, the Holy Spirit began to speak to me and to show me things in the spirit.**

**After three or four years, those feelings had waned and I wasn’t hearing from the Holy Spirit as much as I had. My pastor caught me one day and told me that there comes a time in every Believer’s life that they have to learn to follow the Lord without those feelings.**

**Hebrews 11:6 (KJV)**
6  But **without faith *it is* impossible** to please *him*: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and *that* he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

**If we DEPEND on feelings we will be tossed around spiritually, up one day, down the next! YOU will NEVER be STABLE in your Christian walk.**

**Illustration: Barbara was speaking to a woman and the woman said something to the effect of, “I just don’t FEEL God anymore.”**

**Barbara said something very profound, “What is God supposed to feel like?”**

# 2 Corinthians 5:7 (NKJV)

For we walk by faith, not by sight.

**If you are depending on God to give you a “FEELING” your Christian like will be worse than a rollercoaster ride!**

**We MUST realize God is there whether we feel anything or not!**

**The Church in the United States is LUKEWARM!**

**HOW DO WE BECOME “HOT” AGAIN FOR THE LORD? Six Things to Do.**

1. **Make a COMMITMENT that you are going to serve the Lord!**
	1. **NO MATTER how you feel!**
	2. **NO MATTER what others say!**
	3. **NO MATTER the cost!**
2. **Develop a habit of studying God’s Word DAILY.**
	1. **With the Internet, it is easier than it has ever been to study God’s Word.**
	2. **Heb 4:12**

For the word of God **is alive and powerful**. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between **soul and spirit**, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires.

**Isaiah 55:11 Young’s Literal Translation**

So is My word that goeth out of My mouth, It turneth not back unto Me empty, But hath done that which I desired, And prosperously effected that for which I sent it.

1. **Be committed to your church and life group.**
	1. **Heb 10:24, 25 Holman Christian Standard Bible**

24And let us be concerned about one another in order to promote love and good works, 25**not staying away from our worship meetings, as some habitually do**, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day drawing near.

* 1. This means you **NEED TO BE HERE!**
	2. Everyone has times they can’t be here but how many times could you be here and you skip to sleep in or to do something else?
	3. I prepare a meal for you every week, so does our pastor.
	4. There is someone here that is blessed by your presence.
	5. Someone here will bless you because of their presence.
1. **Submit to those with ministry gifts that God has placed in your path.**

**Ephesians 4:7**-**15**

But to each one of us grace was given according to the measure of Christ’s gift. 8Therefore He says:“When He ascended on high,He led captivity captive, **And gave gifts to men**~~.”~~ ~~9~~~~(Now this, “He ascended”—what does it mean but that He also first descended into the lower parts of the earth?~~ ~~10~~~~He who descended is also the One who ascended far above all the heavens, that He might fill all things.)~~ **11And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers,** 12for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, 13till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ; 14that we should no longer be children, **tossed to and fro and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the trickery of men, in the cunning craftiness of deceitful plotting,** 15but, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ— 16from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.

1. **Find time EVERY day to WORSHIP!**
	1. God INHABITS the praise of His people. Psalm 22:3.
	2. Evil spirits can’t stand when we worship God.

**1 Samuel 16:23 (KJV)**
23  And it came to pass, when the *evil* spirit from God was upon Saul, that David took an harp, and played with his hand: so Saul was refreshed, and was well, and the evil spirit departed from him.

1. **Get involved!**
	1. Pastor David is adamant about Missionfest.
	2. He wants people in this church to be involved.
	3. If you make yourself available, “Your gift and your calling will find room for itself.”
	4. If you are too busy to be able to give of your time in some capacity, you are too busy!
	5. Malachi Chapter 3 talks about us giving our “Tithes and Offerings.” Are you giving a tithe of your time to the Lord?

**Conclusion:**

God’s eyes are always looking for someone who will trust Him and be obedient to what He is calling them to do.

God is NOT pleased when we are lukewarm. He would rather us get ALL THE WAY IN (All In, as Pastor David has said) or just get all the way out!

When we are just lukewarm, it makes God sick. Imagine having an army and every soldier just does their own thing and they really don’t care about being in battle or doing the things their commanders have told them. How easily would that army be defeated?

Let’s choose, THIS DAY, to get ALL IN, in serving and believing God!