

In Times Like These!

“...in the last days perilous times shall come.” {2 Timothy 3:1}

The word “perilous” may be defined as dangerous, hazardous, full of risk; as a perilous undertaking; a perilous situation. {Webster’s Dictionary 1828} Certainly, we do live in “*perilous times*” and, watching everyday events unfold and develop, these “*perilous times*” will increase and only become worse. Please, go with me back to the time of World War II, for a moment.

World War II {WWII} was raging and, in 1943, a woman and mother of five children had become distressed by the headlines she read in a newspaper. She wrote of this woman, “She saw the World War II causality lists and she knew the Allies were making slow progress through the boot of Italy. Supplies were rationed at home, and everyone was living under incredible strain.” As she read in her Bible, she came upon 2 Timothy 3:1; our text above. As she read, the song, “In Times Like These” began to form in her mind; little did she know at the time this song would sweep across the world and become one of the most beloved songs of the 1940s and 1950s; it is still sung around the world today. Ruth Caye Jones {1902-1972} wrote:

In times like these we need a Savior;
In times like these we need an anchor.
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, yes, He’s the One.
This Rock is Jesus, the only One!
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

In times like these we need the Bible.
In times like these O be not idle.
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

This Rock is Jesus, the One.
This Rock is Jesus, God’s only Son!
Be very sure, be very sure
Your anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock!

“*Perilous times*” did exist during WWII and they have continued even to the present time that we now live in and, their frequency only increases with each passing day. One day events of the world seem a little better but then the next day, somehow, they have become worse and people remain in a state of unrest.

As Christians, we have not buried our heads in the sand and pretend that everything is okay because we know they are not. At the same time, our hope is NOT in any world government but in the Lord Jesus Christ; He and He alone is **THE ROCK** that our eternal souls are anchored to. Our hope is Jesus Christ and we have His Word, the Bible, to assure us that He is still in control.

Jesus came the first time to die on the Cross of Calvary as the full and final payment for our sin debt. {Luke 19:10; John 19:17} He shed His innocent blood and died {Hebrews 9:12-14, 26}, was buried, and three days later He bodily rose {Matthew 28:6; Mark 16:1-6; John 20:11-28} and at this very moment He is in Heaven on the right hand of God the Father {Hebrews 10:12}. The next time He comes, it will be to call His blood bought children home by a catching away {1 Thessalonians 4:14-18} {*we call this the rapture*}. In the meantime, those who physically die now become absent from the body but are present with the Lord. “We are confident, I say,

and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.” {2 Corinthians 5:8} We may endure “*perilous times*” now but, they are temporary times at best and no matter what happens, our eternal souls are securely anchored and held as they are gripped by Jesus Christ, **THE SOLID ROCK!**

Dear reader, you too may have this same assurance during “*perilous times*” if you will repent of sin and, by faith alone in Jesus Christ, you receive Him as personal Saviour. Jesus said, “I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance.” {Luke 5:32} Speaking of us as lost sinners we are told, “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a Lamb without blemish and without spot:” {1 Peter 1:18-19} The Bible promises that, “For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.” {Romans 10:13} For those who do repent of sin and trust in Jesus Christ as Saviour we are told, “And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son.” “These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God, that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.” {1 John 5:11, 13}

My friend, will you be tossed back and forth by the “*perilous times*” of this world or will you repent of sin and trust Jesus Christ as your Saviour and have your eternal soul anchored in Him, **THE SOLID ROCK?**

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/July 2019

All Scripture references are KJV