

# Living Hope in Terrible Times

This is the day the Lord has made, let us rejoice (jump) and be glad (cheer) in it! [slide 1]



## I. Perspective on the Situation -

2 Tim 3:1 NKJ

Eve of Destruction?

Mandates? Madness? Sexual Anarchy? Wars?

<Thermostat not Thermometer>

Ro 8:18 For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are **not worth comparing** with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

[2Cor. 4:16 So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us **an eternal weight of glory** beyond all comparison, 18 as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.

2Cor 5:6 So we are **always of good courage <confident>**

19 For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God.

20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope 21 that the creation itself will be **set free from its bondage to corruption** and **obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God**. 22 For we know that the **whole creation** has been **groaning** together in the pains of childbirth until now.

23 And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the **firstfruits of the Spirit**, **groan** inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the **redemption of our bodies**. [SLIDE 1].

Freedom is the longing of not just creation, but of every human who bears the image of God.

- 26 Likewise the **Spirit** *helps us in our weakness*. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself **intercedes** for us with **groanings too deep for words**. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees?  
27 And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the **Spirit intercedes** for the saints according to the will of God. [SLIDE 2]

## II. The Instructions

- 1 **Thess 5:16** Rejoice always, [SLIDE 3]  
17 pray without ceasing, [SLIDE 4]  
18 give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.  
19 Do not quench the Spirit. [SLIDE 5]  
20 Do not despise prophecies,  
21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.  
22 Abstain from every form of evil.  
23 Now may the **God of peace** himself **sanctify you completely**, and may your whole spirit and soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. [SLIDE 6]

## III. The Fuel — Vision

### A. Changing the Focus

- Lam. 3:20** My soul continually remembers it and is bowed down within me.  
21 But this I call to mind, and therefore I have **hope**:  
22 The steadfast love of the LORD **never ceases**;  
his **mercies never come to an end**; [SLIDE 7]  
23 they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.

24 “The LORD is my portion,” says my soul, “therefore I will hope in him.”

25 The LORD is good to those who wait for him, to the soul who seeks him.

26 It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the LORD.

## B. Correcting the Vision

1John 3:1 See what kind of love the Father has given to us, that we should be called children of God; and so we are. The reason why the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

2 Beloved, we are God’s children **now**, and what we will be has not yet appeared; but we know that when he appears we shall be like him, because we shall see him as he is. [SLIDE 8]

3 And everyone who thus hopes in him purifies himself as he is pure.

## IV.. The Royal Life

Psa. 100:1 **Make a joyful noise** to the LORD, **all the earth!**

2 **Serve** the LORD with gladness!

**Come** into his presence with singing! [SLIDE 9]

3 **Know** that “the LORD, he is God! It is he who made us, and we are his; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.

[SLIDE 10]

4 **Enter** his gates with **thanksgiving**,  
and his courts with **praise!**

**Give thanks** to him; **bless** his name! [SLIDE 11]

5 For the LORD is **good**; his **steadfast love** endures forever,  
and his **faithfulness** to all generations.

**He renews our MINDS with his AFFECTION (kiss of love)!**

**Rom 12.2** Do not be conformed to this world, but be **transformed** by the **renewal<sup>1</sup> of your mind<sup>2</sup>**, that **by testing** you may discern what is the will of God, what is good & acceptable & perfect.

**[SLIDE 12]**

## **V. God of Hope**

**Rom. 15:13** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.

**[SLIDE 13]**

**NIV** May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in him, so that you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**STAY IN LOVE;**

**STAY BOLD;**

**DO NOT GET CANCELED;**

***Eve of Destruction*** (1965 Barry McGuire)

The eastern world, it is explodin',  
Violence flarin', bullets loadin',  
You're old enough to kill but not for votin',  
You don't believe in war, but what's that gun you're totin',  
And even the Jordan river has bodies floatin',  
But you tell me over and over and over again my friend,  
Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction.

Don't you understand, what I'm trying to say?

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<sup>1</sup> anakainosis— return to the new, superior, unheard of

<sup>2</sup> nous - the organ of perception, sometimes translated “heart”

And can't you feel the fears I'm feeling today?  
If the button is pushed, there's no running away,  
There'll be no one to save with the world in a grave,  
Take a look around you, boy, it's bound to scare you, boy,  
And you tell me over and over and over again my friend,  
Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction.

Yeah, my blood's so mad, feels like coagulatin',  
I'm sittin' here, just contemplatin',  
I can't twist the truth, it knows no regulation,  
Handful of Senators don't pass legislation,  
And marches alone can't bring integration,  
When human respect is disintegratin',  
This whole crazy world is just too frustratin',  
And you tell me over and over and over again my friend,  
Ah, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction.

Think of all the hate there is in Red China!  
Then take a look around to Selma, Alabama!  
Ah, you may leave here, for four days in space,  
But when your return, it's the same old place,  
The poundin' of the drums, the pride and disgrace,  
You can bury your dead, but don't leave a trace,  
Hate your next door neighbor, but don't forget to say grace,  
And you tell me over and over and over and over again my friend,  
You don't believe we're on the eve of destruction.

No, no, you don't believe we're on the eve of destruction.