

## What Time Is It?

According to Eccl. 3:1-8 there is a time "for every matter or purpose under heaven." If this is so and we are assured that it is because God's Word says so, then we need to ask ourselves "What time is it?"

I believe that I Peter 4:17 tells us of "the household of God" exactly what time it is: "For the time has arrived for judgment to begin with the household of God; and if it begins with us, what will be the end of those who do not respect or believe or obey the good news (the Gospel) of God?"

Surely, we are not unaware of the state of our country, even of the whole world. The headlines of our daily paper read like an account of Biblical prophecy of the "end times." And yet for many of "the household of God" there is a failure to deal with their own sin, preferring to blame others, society, the church, etc. They seem unaware of the need to have cleansed hearts and renewed minds: to have their lamps filled with the "oil" of the Holy Spirit. (Matt. 25:1-13)

Jesus deals with this attitude in Matt. 7:1-5. In verse one He says: "Do not judge lest you be judged yourselves." In verse 3 & 4 He admonishes us to deal with the log in our own eye first, before we can deal with the speck in our brother's eye. Then in verse five He calls those who fail to deal with their own sin first -- "hypocrite" -- which means actor or pretender.

In Rev.3:19 as the Spirit speaks to the lukewarm church at Laodicea, He uses the word REPENT. Repent means to take stock of yourselves, look and see what is wrong in your own heart. (Psalm 139:23,24).

The first part of verse 19 identifies whom He is talking to: "Those whom I (dearly and tenderly) love, I tell their faults and convict and convince and reprove and chasten (I discipline and instruct them)." Because we are of "the household of God"; because He loves us dearly and tenderly; He calls us to REPENT -- (change your mind and attitude).

Surely, this is the time to be sure that our hearts are right with God. A time to be very sure that the thoughts we think, the words we speak, the way we live lines up with the Word of God.

Is it not also a time to follow the directive in Hosea 10:12 "Sow for yourselves according to righteousness; reap according to mercy and lovingkindness? Break up your uncultivated ground, for IT IS TIME TO SEEK THE LORD."