

In Times Like These

3 Elements That Bring Peace In Uncertain Times

2 Thessalonians 3:16

Now the Lord of peace himself give you peace always by all means.
The Lord be with you all.

Introduction: At this time, our world is in a panic over COVID-19. Right now, the shelves at the grocery store are bare, people are avoiding public gatherings, the stock market is crashing, and everything from private schools to all the major sports leagues have cancelled their seasons.

We believe it is wise to take the threat seriously, but there is so much uncertainty because we do not know how to separate the credible information from the hype we hear from the news media. It is in uncertain times like these that the peace of God becomes very precious to us. It is a great comfort to be able to rest in peace even in the midst of the greatest storms.

Peace is not a cavalier "praise God anyway" attitude that denies or ignores the tribulations of life, but a settledness of heart that our God is in control of every situation. Our confidence is not in anything man can do for us and, our fear is not in anything man can do against us, but our hope is in our God who watches over us with tender care.

One key word that stands out in this passage really caught my eye. It is the word "NOW."

- There was a *now* for the Thessalonians and the Lord was there for them.
- There was a *now* for the Apostle Paul and the Lord was there for them.
- There was a *now* for Jesus and the Lord was there for them.
- There was a *now* for US and the Lord is here for us too.

3 Elements That Bring Peace In Uncertain Times

- 1st & 2nd Thessalonians are among the earliest of Paul's writings. He addresses many issues, particularly related to the 2nd Coming of Christ.

These believers in Thessalonica were troubled, worried, & fearful of the situation they were in and what else may be coming. (They had a lot of questions)

- As Paul closes his letter he brings their attention to the "Lord of Peace" and the help & comfort He alone can give them.

→ Here is: PEACE vs. 16 / PRESENCE vs. 16 / Paul vs. 17 / PROVISION ("grace") vs. 18

* But let's go a little further into this help we/they need

3 Things That Bring Peace

① UNIQUE PERSON

How Unique?

vs. 16 "the Lord of Peace" (Prince of Peace)
Ex. 15:3 "The Lord is a warrior"
9. In 14:27 "my peace"
"Lord of war"
"run out" of God
"people may run out" of stuff but never "run out" of God
"God is dead?"
"cannot be explained"

② UNDERSTANDABLE PROMISE

vs. 16 "... give you peace"
CONCEPT PEACE ← with God - Rom. 5:1
of God - Phil. 4:7

COST PRICE - "give" - not purchased / not earned - just received / not achieved / not bought - believed!
CONTINUATION PERPETUITY - Keep going / remains available / if you lose peace, God returns, you can get it back - "always"

③ UNUSUAL PATH

vs. 16 - "by all means" "NOW" - diff. in Paul's day - "same" day - one day
↳ In Trials
↳ In Spite of Trials
"In Times Like These"

In the year 1943, Ruth Caye Jones, a pastor's wife in Pennsylvania and the mother of five, was distressed by the headlines of her Pittsburgh newspaper. She saw the World War II casualty 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. Opening her Bible, Ruth studied the page and pondered the opening words of **2 Timothy 3:1** ***This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come.*** A song began composing itself in her mind. She jotted some lyrics on a small pad in her apron pocket. A series of notes also played in her mind. Soon the notes and music congealed to become one of the most beloved Gospel songs of the 1940s and 1950s, "**In Times Like These.**"

***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!***

Ruth's song may have been inspired by 2 Timothy 3:1, but it's based on her knowledge of another verse— **Hebrews 6:19** Which *hope* we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast,..."

Our lives are like the open seas—calm and pleasant one day; stormy and tempest-tossed the next. But in times like these we can be very sure our anchor holds and grips the Solid Rock.

