

.....COUNSEL THE WORD.....

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From the President:



High Time

J.R. Ensey

There is a verse in the writings of Paul to the Romans containing a phrase that has remained in our vernacular for 400 years: “And that, knowing the time, that now it is **high time** to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed” (Romans 13:11). Paul was saying “the hour has come,” (ESV) that “it is already the hour”

(NASB), and “already it is time” (ASV) to awake and become alert to the times. Certainly our salvation is much nearer now than when Paul was writing.

May we suggest that it is “high time” to say NO to psychiatry and its numbing of the American brain? Have we not tired of confronting the false sense of security that psychiatric medications convey to unsuspecting victims—including supposedly dedicated Christians? Have we become afraid to stand up against the egghead professors and pseudo physicians who are frying the brains of children and adults alike? Are they trusted simply because they deceptively diagnose sinful behaviors with medical-sounding terms like “disorders,” “complexes” and “syndromes”? Many, and perhaps most, doctors have sold out to the pharmaceutical companies who compensate them for prescribing their pills. Is it not true that some ministers have also sold out and surrendered to the psychology industry? Do they refer their constituents with problems to the local shrink rather than deal with the problems themselves? Others have decided they would rather have a sheepskin on the wall hailing their degree in psychology than people in their pews who are learning from soteric counseling how to walk with God in Christian liberty.

Isn't it “high time” to decide whether we are going to cast our lot with the enablers or the disablers. That is the challenge facing Apostolic counselors and pastors today. The *enablers* are: faith in the Word of God, the willingness to confront sin, the power of the pure gospel, the change brought repentance, and the transformation of the mind by the Holy Spirit. The *disablers* are: humanistic theories, confidence in the arm of flesh, and the widespread dependence on psychiatric medications. We must choose one path or the other. To attempt to mix the two—usually referred to as “integration”—is futile. That is like putting some pure water into a half glass of dirty water. Did the pure water clean up the dirty water? Of course not. Now all of the water is polluted! There are plenty of psychologists out there—even of the Christian ilk—for those who want to choose that way. But we are Apostolics. Our gospel is different. Our goals are different. Our gifts are different.

Soteric counselors have discovered an unhidden source of truth. It has been right there before us in plain view all the time. “He hath given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness” (II Peter 1:3). It seemed “too simple” to apply the Word to the complex problems of our day. Jesus Himself prayed this prayer: “Sanctify them by your truth. Your word is truth” (John 17:17). The application of the Word is how people are sanctified. “The word of the Lord is right, and all His works are done in truth” (Psalm 33:4).

The Word works—and it is high time we employed it in our counseling.

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## **The Gift of Time**

By Ilene Dewar

*Certified Soteric Counselor*

“There is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven”  
(Ecclesiastes 3:1 NIV).

James reminds us that life “is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (James 4:14). A king has no more, a pauper no less, than the twenty-four hour period from one sunrise to another. In Lamentations, Jeremiah encourages us that the mercies of the Lord are “new every morning” (3:23a). Each day is as individual as the drop of the morning dew on a flower’s fragile petal. It is unique and should be full of hope. “Great is thy faithfulness” (Lamentations 3:23b).

Hope can be an element that is lacking in the lives of the elderly. Most of them have lost friends, acquaintances, and loved ones—perhaps even a spouse. As they are forced to face their own mortality, especially when such reality is exacerbated by illness, worry and care can lead to despair and depression. Why is this so? There might be a single issue or there could be a myriad.

Since most of them have retired from their professions and vocations, they may have many long, empty hours to try to fill. Add to their boredom the realization of their waning ability do many of the things they had always been able to do before, and senior citizens may begin to feel that there is no purpose left to their lives. Perhaps their living arrangements have changed or their income has seriously diminished. Illness or pain can also be big hope-crushers.

Too often the elderly are encouraged by well-meaning family members, friends, and even pastors, to take a trip to their doctors, whom they believe might be able to help moderate those negative feelings. Of course physicians these days automatically whip out the prescription pads, ordering antidepressants. Psychotropic drugs—those mind-altering, mood-altering medications—cannot do for the hurting elderly patient what they need most: faith, hope, and love. Those virtues are found only in the Lord Jesus Christ!

Antidepressants blunt the emotions in an attempt to give people an “I-don’t-care” attitude. Hope is not found in these stupefying drugs, but it is found by putting one’s trust in God. Hope gives the child of God the will to go on even when the circumstances are trying and the pain seems unbearable. Hope is an anchor for the soul and gives a song in the midnight hour. Hope helps a person rise above his situation and gives him a reason to sing:

My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus’ blood and righteousness,  
I dare not trust the sweetest frame, but wholly lean on Jesus’ name.  
On Christ the solid Rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand,  
All other ground is sinking sand.

Hope is not magic, but it is powerful. Hope cannot be found in a pill or on the couch of a psychiatrist. Hope is found in a Man, the Man Christ Jesus. Hope comes when the saint of God puts his trust in the spoken Word of the Living God, and he meditates on that Word, taking it into his soul until it becomes a part of him. Hope is found in prayer to a God who never slumbers nor does He sleep, but He is listening ever for the voice of His children in their time of deepest and darkest despair. “Hope thou in God” is an admonition from Psalm 42. As simplistic as this advice sounds, it is this hope which

allows even the elderly to rise up above the mundane, above the fear, above the numbness of rejection or the purposelessness of daily living to a plane of peace, rest, and joy in the Holy Ghost. That is when God's child can say, "It is well with my soul, it is well, it is well with my soul."

Troubles will come; disappointments, distress, and fear may arise, and life seem so empty, but in the midst of it all, the believer can call on the Lord, much as David did in Psalm 31 when he was seeking for refuge from the One he knew would deliver him by His righteousness. David knew that his Rock and his Fortress was the God he served.

"But I trust in you, O Lord; I say, 'You are my God.' My times are in Your hands; deliver me from my enemies and from those who pursue me. Let your face shine on your servant; save me in Your unfailing love" (Psalm 31:14-16 NIV).

The gist of David's prayer I have paraphrased: "My times are in Your hands, Lord. Whatever comes and whatever goes, through the dark of the night, through the pain and the sorrow and the fear and the despair, if I can remember that my time is in Your hands, and You, who knew me before I was ever conceived, will be with me until I take my last breath, then I have hope which is unseen, but it is still hope."

"Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see" (Hebrews 11:1 NIV). Even when prayers seem to go unanswered and the discouragement comes, if the child of God will learn to wholly lean on Jesus and trust that what He has planned is right for him, then when time shall end, whether by death or the rapture, eternity will begin. What has he to fear or dread when the Captain of his soul is in charge? Remember, this Captain has charted all the pathways and He knows how to bring each one to a blessed end and a new beginning in eternity—forever to be with the Lord.

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News about the ISC Fall Training Conference

Plans are changing concerning our training conference. For eight years we have convened at a hotel site to provide the training requirements specified for certification. This has meant that travel to and from the site by candidates, staff and alumni was necessitated, plus the rental of a hotel room for two nights, food expenses, and the registration fee. The cost has been too much for some; consequently, we are looking at another approach that will circumvent much of the cost and still achieve our purpose.

We have sensed that moving ahead in the stream of technology is the wave of the future. Without compromising any of our standards of holiness relative to avoidance of certain media, we feel we can provide a quality service that will greatly reduce the cost and enable more people to participate.

We are preparing a series of lessons with a visual format and another series of audio CDs. These lessons will be accompanied by notes which the candidate will follow

as the lesson progresses, filling in the blanks and/or answering the questions. These will be submitted for grading and credit toward certification.

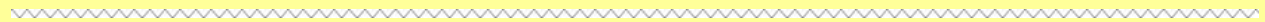
In this way the candidate will be able to complete the training without traveling to a distant location. The loss of immediate interaction of a live conference will be offset reduced cost and time. There may be bumps in this road along the way, but time will help us smooth them out. In the future we perhaps can meet in real time online. Who knows what the future holds?

Watch for announcements about this and help us get the word out to both alumni and those interested in certification.



Please Note our New Phone Number

To request ISC information, please call Ilene Dewar at 812-272-8141. She will be happy to get it right out in the mail to you. However, you may get the information you need on the spot, online! Why wait for the slow mail? On our website, click on "Resources." That will bring up all the information that is contained in the packet of information.



A Prayer Request

Please keep Brother and Sister Doty in your prayers. Brother Doty desperately needs a healing touch from God. He recently fell and injured himself and now has very limited mobility. Sister Doty needs strength and wisdom as she seeks to manage their home, assist him in getting around, and to deal with her own health needs. She oversees a vast counseling ministry, serves as ISC secretary, guides the Help Me Heal conferences, and a host of other responsibilities. Please intercede for both of them.