

WHAT TIME IS IT? 3

New Routines -New Opportunities -The New Norm

I. Overcoming the New Norm of the World

1 John 5:4-5 (NIV) ⁴ **everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith.** ⁵ *Who is it that overcomes the world? Only the one who believes that Jesus is the Son of God.*

A. Living in the New Normal

1 Thessalonians 5:23 (NIV) May God himself, **the God of peace**, sanctify you through and through. *May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.*

B. Words to Build Your Life On

Principle 1: When Everything Seems Like It's Upside-down, the Values Found in God's Word Provide a Sound Foundation to Build Our Lives On.

Matthew 7:24-25 (MSG) "These words I speak to you are not incidental (*insignificant*) additions to your life... *They are foundational words, words to build a life on.* **If you work these words into your life, you are like a smart carpenter who built his house on solid rock.** Rain poured down, the river flooded, a tornado hit—but nothing moved that house. It was fixed to the rock."

C. A Shining Light in the Midst of an Uncertain World

Philippians 2:15-16 (NIV) ... **you will shine among them like stars in the sky** *as you hold firmly to the word of life.*

1 John 1:1 (NLT) ... **He (Jesus) is the Word of life.**

II. Relationships and Connectedness

Principle 2: Social Distancing causes Us to be Physically Separated from Others, but We do not have to be Socially Disconnect from them.

A. Connect with God

Philippians 4:8-9 (NIV) Finally, brothers and sisters, **whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things.** *...And the God of peace will be with you.*

Principle 3: Connecting with God is Vital during Times like We are Facing Today.

Psalms 46:1-2 (NIV) *God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.* **Therefore we will not fear...**

B. Connect with Family and Friends

Ephesians 4:16 (NIV) From him the whole body, joined and **held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.**

Principle 4: Relationships are the Glue that Holds People together when Everything Around them is Disconnected!

C. Connect with God's Purpose

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV) "For **I know the plans I have for you,**" declares the LORD, "*plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.*"

Principle 5: God has Given Us a Higher Purpose in Life than Just Focusing on Ourselves, He has Called Us to Make a Difference in Others.

Proverbs 29:18 (KJV) **Where there is no vision, the people perish.**

Proverbs 29:18 (NIV) **Where there is no revelation, people cast off restraint.**

Principle 6: Discovering God's Purpose and Making a Difference brings Peace and Security into Life; Those Who are Not Lining their Lives Up with God's Purpose are Uneasy and Upset in Troubled Times.

III. Tough Times Builds Tough People

A. Trusting God

Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV) *Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him,* and he will make your paths straight.

DEFINE: Trust - Believing in Another's Reliability and Dependability.

Principle 7: Trusting God Allows Us to Rise Up Above the Things We Can't Control, and Believe that God Can!

B. The Testing of Your Faith

1 Peter 1:7 (NLT) *These trials will show that your faith is genuine. It is being tested as fire tests and purifies gold—though your faith is far more precious than mere gold. So when your faith remains strong through many trials, it will bring you much praise and glory and honor on the day when Jesus Christ is revealed to the whole world.*