

A Time of Decision

Pastor Anthony J. Shetley, Sunday, September 14, 2025

Text: Matthew 16:18; Ephesians 6:12; John 16:33

Our nation and our world are living in dark and evil days. Violence, hatred, and deception are on display more openly than ever.

This is not just political, cultural, or social — it is the greater conflict of good versus evil, light versus darkness, Christ versus Satan.

“Redeeming the time, because the days are evil.” (Ephesians 5:16)

1. The Reality of Evil in Our Times

Considering recent, current events, we can agree that Evil is not abstract — it is visible, felt, and destructive.

College campuses and public spaces have become breeding grounds for ideologies that dismiss God and stir hatred against Christian values. Darkness hates the light, and the world hates those who belong to Christ.

- John 3:19–20 – Men loved darkness rather than light.
- John 15:18–19 – The world hates you because you are not of the world.

*The spirit of Antichrist is at a fever pitch
and Satan's hatred is aimed at God's people.*

2. The Victory of Christ Over Evil

This is nothing new: from Cain hating Abel (1 John 3:12), to the cross of Christ, and toward all of His church, evil has always opposed righteousness.

Jesus declared: “I will build My church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.” (Matthew 16:18)

All the authority and power of hell cannot overcome God's people.

Jesus has conquered: Death (1 Corinthians 15:55–57), Hell (Revelation 1:18), and the grave (Colossians 2:15 – disarming principalities and powers).

He tells us not to fear man who can kill the body, but God who holds eternity in His hands (Matthew 10:28).

Truth: Evil does not win because Jesus has already won.

3. Today is a Time for Decision

*Now is the time to decide where we stand.
This is not the time to play church or to hide our sin. It is time to confess all sin
to walk in the light, and to live fully surrendered to Jesus Christ (1 John 1:9).
When we do, our lives bear clear testimony that we belong to Him.*

Examine yourself:

- 2 Peter 1:10 – Make your calling and election sure.
- 2 Corinthians 13:5 – Examine yourselves whether you are in the faith.
- If sin is hidden, now is the time to confess and be cleansed.
- 1 John 1:9 – If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive.

This is a time for urgency. Evil will only grow stronger. Darkness will only deepen, because time is running out. The Bible has warned us through the prophets, the apostles, and the Holy Spirit that in the last days many will fall away, and many will have a form of godliness but deny its power (2 Timothy 3:1–5).

My friend, may we be shaken awake. May we with fear and trembling work out our salvation (Philippians 2:12).

May we remove anything that keeps us from full surrender to Christ, so that when He returns, we may be part of that glorious bride — without spot, without wrinkle, without blemish (Ephesians 5:27).

And so, I rededicate myself today in the fight for the cause of Christ, to stand with His church, to proclaim the gospel of the truth and the love of Jesus Christ! Furthermore, to live it out in the midst of the darkness and evil of this generation.

4. The Need for Spiritual Strength.

We cannot stand in these evil days without the power of God.

Paul reminded the church at Ephesus that our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, powers, and spiritual wickedness in high places (Ephesians 6:12).

And yes, evil is palpable in these last days — but it is not greater than Christ! For Jesus declared: “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me” (Matthew 28:18).

Greater is He who is in us than he who is in the world (1 John 4:4). Standing with Him, we have eternal victory.

He is our Champion. He is the One who died for us, who suffered for us, and who won our victory. We owe our lives to Him and His cause.

And when He returns, the life that we forfeited in service to Him will be rewarded with eternal life, glorification, and reigning with Him forever.

Conclusion:

Evil’s days are numbered, but our life in Christ is everlasting.

So let us stand up for Jesus Christ. Let us take a stand and commit ourselves wholly to Him as Lord and Savior.

May there never be a question about who we belong to, what we believe in, or what matters most to us.

Let us love the Lord our God with all our heart, with all our soul, and with all our strength (Deuteronomy 6:5).

And when He returns, we will reign with Him forever, in a new heaven and new earth, where evil is no more.

Who wants to take a stand for Christ today? “Come unto Me all who are heavy laden. I will give you Rest.”