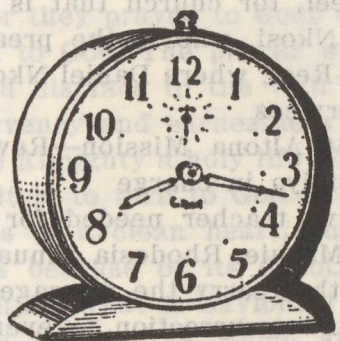


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Already It May Be TOO LATE



AN EDITORIAL

by

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St. Paul wrote to Timothy, "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come." Just what conditions constitute perilous times we do not know for sure but at least we have an idea that we are in the very midst of them. The tension and the anxiety of recent weeks, created by the Cuban crises, has been a new experience for the Western World. At least war never has come quite so close to most of us. It has required that we sit down and take an account of ourselves; to ask, "Is this the end?" or "What comes next?" In the minds of many is the thought that already it may be too late—too late to preserve our culture, our freedoms, and our way of life. But we do not know for sure.

This we do know, however, that we are hastening toward an "end." The Bible says so. And the evidence mounts to justify our saying with Zephaniah, "The great day of the Lord is near, it is near, and hasteth greatly, even the voice of the day of the Lord; the mighty man shall cry there bitterly" (Zeph. 1:14).

There is a more serious side in the words "too late" than simply the possible end of our national existence and identity. There are multitudes for whom the words "too late" mean the lostness and darkness of hopeless eternity. Those who have made no place for God, our children, parents, brothers and sisters, neighbours and friends, are included here. We have always assumed that there will be another time, a better opportunity. It may not be so.

If the light of the gospel means anything to us at all, and if eternity is what Jesus declared it to be, it behooves us to take some rather desperate steps, to present the facts of destiny in no uncertain terms, to throw away our fears and inhibitions about speaking of holy things, in order that some may yet prepare for the Great Day.

When men are afloat on a raft in the open sea all that matters is survival. Similarly, in these days of peril when time and opportunity may be short, the Church must concentrate on souls, with regard for nothing other, in order that men may survive the judgments of Almighty God.

For some, it is already too late. The Church has missed them. For a time they were under our care. Now they are gone. For others there is opportunity still. May God help us to reach them—**NOW!**