

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord Will Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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It All Happens In A Moment

Introduction

Some years ago I was at a church gathering when the speaker said, "There are only two things in life we can be assured of, death and taxes". What he says is partially true but we can also be assured of the judgment of God, where we will spend eternity, and that which we all are forced to recognize with the passing of years, the brevity of life and the suddenness by which things can happen. Last month was my 75th birthday and my wife Jean and I also celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. As I look back I wonder, "Where has the time gone and what lies around the corner?" It is as if I am standing by a flowing river and as I watch it, I see a bottle bobbing up and down carried by the stream. I watch as it goes past me, then floats down the river until the river turns, then it is gone. How like life that is.

The Brevity of Life

James wrote, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (Jam. 4:14). Job wrote, "My days are swifter than a post, they flee away" (Job 9:25). The Psalmist wrote, "For my days are consumed like smoke (Psa. 102:3). Again Job wrote, "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle" (Job 7:6). Jacob, when speaking to Pharaoh and after one hundred and thirty years said, "Few and evil have the days of the years of my life been" (Gen. 47:9).

When we were little children time meant nothing. It was marked by Easter, Christmas and our birthdays. Then in teenage years there was the developing independence from mum and dad and then marriage for many, but where have the years gone? The 50's, 60's and 70's are distant memories. The turn of the century is long forgotten and where are we now? I have lived approximately 27,393 days and yet how few of them I can recall. Many of us are the "old" ones, the patriarch's and matriarch's of the family. Those which are our little grandchildren will soon have babies of their own and all too soon we too will simply be a name in the mists of history. Then what is the meaning of life? The Lord said, "For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36). This life is an infinitesimal dot in the vastness of eternity. Looking back on what can be remembered we ask, "What has my life been? and where has it gone?"

Swiftly the moments fly, swiftly the days go by
Days turn to years and all too soon nothing is left but to die
But if God gave you the power to live your life over again
To relive each wasted hour, would you live it again in vain
When comes the final call, as it must come to all
What will you do if God should say, You never knew me at all.

The Suddenness By Which Things Happen

Dark and tragic things which happened in a moment:

- a) A short time ago a father was cutting down a tree, as it fell his little child ran toward it and in a moment, oh the suddenness of it, the child was killed. It happened in a moment.
- b) I was in Golden, Texas when the brother whose home I was in came in and said to me, "America is under attack". Stunned, we watched, it all happened so suddenly, two planes flew into the twin towers and then just as suddenly, within seconds, those one thousand foot plus buildings collapsed. It all happened in a few moments.
- c) July 24th, 1986 dawned a beautiful Florida morning. Thousands stood to watch the take off of the space shuttle Challenger. On it was school teacher Christa McAuliffe and her associates. It was a beautiful sight as it lifted and soared into a clear blue sky, then, it all happened so suddenly, 73 seconds into the flight high over the Atlantic Ocean it exploded. It happened in a moment.
- d) In 2011 a 9.0 magnitude earthquake in Japan resulted in 130 foot high tsunami waves, killing approximately 20,000 people. It all happened in a few moments.

Bright and lovely things which happened in a moment:

- a) Thank God for the memory of the moment we first held in our arms our new born son, daughter, or grandchild. Suddenly, in a moment we were parents or grandparents, but it was a lovely moment and perhaps with the sheer joy we behaved as if we were the only ones that this had ever happened to.
- b) The months and weeks and days of waiting and then it was suddenly the day, the day of our espousals, and with the few words "I do" spoken, in a moment life had changed.
- c) Thank God for the moment, it also happened so quickly, when at approximately 3:00 under an azure sky a cry rang out from a man on a cross, He cried, "It is finished" (Jn. 19:30) and He entered death. The work had lasted three hours but His death was so sudden, over in a moment of time.
- d) How could any of us ever forget the moment we saw the wonder of God's salvation and in simple faith, we accepted God's wonderful gift of salvation. There was no delaying or waiting for certain things to happen. It was instantaneous and at that moment, God in mercy "translated us into the kingdom of His dear Son" (Col. 1:13). Our destiny for eternity was changed, we became "sons and daughters" of the Living God (2 Cor. 6:18), all in a moment of time.

We must then look at ourselves and live each moment as if it were the last moments we have on earth, to never waste time but cherish it and use it for the greater glory of God.

Years ago Bill Gaither wrote:

We have this moment to hold in our hands
And to touch as it slips through our fingers like sand;
Yesterday's gone and tomorrow may never come,
But we have this moment today.

Those of us who have been reconciled to God by the acceptance of the substitutionary sacrifice of Christ look for another moment which will also happen suddenly. It is the moment of the Lord's return to the air when those who are dead but had a living relationship prior to death, will rise from the dead, and together with those who are alive will be caught up to meet the Lord in the air (1 Thess. 4:17). At that moment, we shall be changed and leave forever these bodies of clay and sin and be given a body like His own "glorious body" (Phil. 3:21). "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Cor. 15:52); ". . . . and so shall we ever be with the Lord" (1 Thess. 4:17).

For those who are not saved and die in their sins, no matter what any religious minister says about the soft wind blowing on your face or the individual being "up there" playing golf, or at the bar having a drink, the Lord plainly says, "Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way . . . whither I go, ye cannot come" (Jn. 8:21) and again, "I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins." (Jn. 8:24). That moment of death will come instantaneously, followed by the first moment of the realization that the individual is banished from God to Hell for all eternity. There is no returning or opportunity for salvation ever again. There will be no mercy, no encouraging words to come and take the gift of salvation, only the realization that they stand there at that moment without hope. Then comes that dreadful moment when God says, "Depart from me, I never knew you" (Matt. 7:23) and then be cast into the Lake of fire (Hell) for all eternity.

. . . Rowan Jennings

The Shock of Eternity

1. **The shock that Christ will be their absolute Judge.**
2. **The shock of the thoroughness with which Christ will judge them.**
3. **The shock of the justice with which Christ will judge them.**
4. **The shock of how the things they cherished in life are now utterly irrelevant and meaningless.**
5. **The shock that there will be no discussion or appeal regarding their sentence.**
6. **The shock that their time in hell will be unending.**

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