

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

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Will I Die Like An Animal?

Introduction

Consider, imagine if there was no afterlife and man dies like an animal! If there was no afterlife there would be no eternity, no Hell, no retribution for wrongs committed against his fellow man or blasphemous attitude toward God. To just die, having nothing to lose, there would be no value in a religious ceremony called a "Celebration of Life". When life gets difficult, sickness gets too painful, let the individual die with dignity by assisted suicide. Why keep them alive, after all if they have lived 70 years they have had a good run at it. Let them die and treat the body as a dead animal.

Yet, somehow we know that is just not true. A human being is not like an animal despite what the evolutionist's may say. Humanity is distinct. There is a God consciousness and in the heart of every human being they know they are not like a dog or orangutang. Within the human heart there is an awareness that there is something after death. Life does not end at the moment we breathe our last breath on this earth. Man knows there is an afterlife and the matter of meeting God is something the unsaved individual is not prepared to face. Sadly, they are not prepared to face it in life, but the split second after death and the last gasp of air is gone, they will meet God, but it will not be on friendly terms. Where that individual will be for the endless ages of eternity is completely up to them. It is their decision, it is Heaven or Hell for eternity? It is the yearnings of God's heart to forgive all men all their sins and bring them to His eternal home, but He will not force His longings on anyone.

At the minute (March/April 2020) the coronavirus is sweeping the world. Some in the royal family have had it, homeless folks have had it, religious people and non-religious have died from it. Fear of it is gripping the hearts of humanity. Across the globe people are taking precautions for fear of getting it for they are aware of the danger of death. When thinking of death they know there is a hereafter and begin to panic. The comedians have little place at the moment. Hollywood and all its empty glitter gives no peace. The cry is to find a medication to combat and stop the disease. Why? Because man knows he is not like an animal and there is something after death. The grave is not the final resting place.

Obituary notices tell not only of a life lived on earth but how they perceive they are now living in eternity. They adorn the grave with lovely wreaths, tell amusing stories about the individual, speak of the wind blowing in their face or of them up there playing golf or standing at the bar.

On the last point the words are true. They are standing at the bar, but not at the bar of drink and friendly association. They are standing at the bar of God's righteous judgment (Gen. 18:25; Rev. 16:7; 19:2). They stand before the intimidating presence of Almighty God. There is no escape. The books of their life is opened (Rev. 20:12) and every blasphemous word spoken pierces the heart like a dagger; every look of lust laughed at or joked about; every dirty gaze will not be laughed at, every spurned opportunity to receive God's way of salvation will burn like a scald in heart and mind. Silent they will stand, no excuses, no advocate, no manipulating lawyer or bias judge, just the individual and God.

The pursuits of earth are meaningless and there is the wish life could be lived again, just to have one more opportunity, but there are no more opportunities. Nothing of earth can now nullify the reality of the eternal unending forever fierceness of God's wrath. The so called New Age channel masters, many, yes thousands of the religious leaders that stood in the pulpits on Sunday and told people the lies of the devil to do the best they could, will stand there. The individual who was so involved in things of this time sphere will stand there. Unless saved by God's grace, the nobles of the land shall be there, the rich of earth, the celebrities of earth will stand alone, all alone. Cremation will not nullify the resurrecting power of the Almighty, corruption in a grave will not nullify the resurrecting power, drowning at sea will not nullify it. All will be raised up.

At the call of the Almighty every individual will come out of the graves. There will be no atheists, no evolutionists, no agnostics then for all will know there is the God of glory and they have despised His offer of salvation and put no eternal value on the sacrifice of His Son. Then comes the darkest words any mortal will ever hear. The God who loved them and freely offered salvation and the way back to God will look at them and the words will be like thunder reverberating through the mountains, "Depart from me, ye that work iniquity" (Matt. 7:23); "Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels" (Matt. 25:41).

The words of the Holy apostle ring loud in the ears, "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation" (Heb. 2:3). The answer is, "There is no escape".

The hymn writer, Arthur J. Hodge, penned these solemn words:

There's a line that is drawn by rejecting our Lord,
Where the call of His Spirit is lost,
And you hurry along with the pleasure-mad throng -
Have you counted, have you counted the cost?

Chorus:

*Have you counted the cost, if your soul should be lost,
Tho' you gain the whole world for your own?
Even now it may be that the line you have crossed,
Have you counted, have you counted the cost?*

You may barter your hope of eternity's morn,
For a moment of joy at the most,
For the glitter of sin and the things it will win -
Have you counted, have you counted the cost? [Chorus]

While the door of His mercy is open to you,
Ere the depth of His love you exhaust,
Won't you come and be healed, won't you whisper, I yield -
I have counted, I have counted the cost. [Chorus]

In the mercy of the Lord He still holds open the opportunity to accept His offer of salvation. It is available at this moment but may not be tomorrow, for we have only this moment to hold in our hands. By accepting God's free gift of salvation (eternal life) the individual can rest knowing there is no more trying to gain God's favour by good works. Never again wondering if they will be in Heaven, but being assured that when death comes, even though their body will go to dust, their spirit will be forever with the Lord Jesus Christ. He offers that blessed salvation in time but never in eternity. Wise is the individual who can face death knowing they will be at home with the Lord. Their ears will never hear the cries of the doomed in a ceaseless eternity of darkness where there is no hope, no light at the end of that tunnel, for that tunnel will never end.

**O be saved, His grace is free!
O be saved, He died for thee!**

. . . Rowan Jennings

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