

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

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

No. 148

June 2024

### It Was All So Sudden

#### Introduction

Sunday, 19th March 2023, my daughter Heather and her two children were on their way to church in Palm Bay, Florida. It was a glorious morning and one couple deemed it a good day for a ride on their motorcycle. At a set of lights, they were one lane over from my daughter and some comments were passed. They didn't know they were seeing an individual who was about 90 seconds from death. The lights changed and the motorbike roared off moving down the road at a very fast speed. One of them was within 60 seconds of the end of life. As they weaved in and out of traffic there was another set of lights for them to stop at but as they sped along there was no time to stop. Going through a red light they smashed into a car. Heather and the children saw it happen. The girl on the back seat was thrown off the bike and skidded across two lanes of the freeway ending on the sidewalk. The fellow was nowhere to be found. He was thrown from the motorbike onto the meridian among the bushes. He was dead.

On Tuesday, 28th March 2023 my daughter and granddaughter were at the gym. In a state of anxiety, my granddaughter ran to her mother, something was happening. When they went over to see what had occurred, there was a man about 40 laying on the ground. He had a major heart attack, fell off the machine and died. It was all so sudden and as the news spread the gym began to empty. There was little or no talking as the solemnity of death had everyone in a state of shock and amazement.

In both these cases there was, from the earthly perspective, no amber light warning of death's approaching. In a moment, the corpses of these two people lay on the ground. Never for a moment did either of them think that death was only seconds away, that in one minute and counting down they would pass into eternity. Life, fitness, and fun would be no more. One must wonder where did they go at the moment of death? Death is not the end of life, it is simply the door from the waiting room called, "This Life", to the vast immeasurable eternity. Through that open door, which could not be resisted, they entered. At that moment all changed not only for their families but also for the two individuals for upon their deaths they took the fastest non-returnable journey they would ever make. They went from a casualness to eternity and its reality.

Like ostriches who are reputed to put their heads in the sand, untold thousands are thinking they have a long time to live, they will get right with God before they die, they will take Hell when it comes, live and have fun while they can for you will be dead a long time. How utterly foolish because while the body will die and go to corruption, the spirit of the individual does not die but lives. Pilate, Judas, Napoleon, and Caligula are all alive in the other world. Death never affects the spirit which, will live forever.

God is ever so gracious for He knows we can be so easily distracted. He also knows the ways of Satan to keep us from thinking about what happens when we die. Consequently, in this truth He seeks to remind us how uncertain life is and in great solemnity advises humanity, "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12) for He knows the consequences. He also commands, "God . . . now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30). At times He pleads, paraphrased, "Come unto me all ye that are weary" (Matt. 11:28). At times He gives a stern warning, "Because there is wrath, beware lest he take thee away with his stroke: then a great ransom cannot deliver thee" (Job. 36:18).

## The Questions

1. Why ought I prepare for death when I am young?

- a) The answer is that none of us knows the day of our death. Around a thousand corners, death may be lurking resulting from an accident as with the young man on the motorbike, by a major heart attack, the like of which happened to my dad. All we have is this present moment. I cannot reclaim years that are past or even seconds ago. Time is like a swiftly flowing river. Just as the waters of Niagara Falls or the Zambezi Falls cannot be stopped, so death with the speed of time comes to each of us. The words of the old Hymn are so true:

Why do you wait, dear brother, O why do you tarry so long?  
Your Saviour is waiting to give you, A place in His sanctified throng.

### Refrain

*Why not, why not, Why not come to Him now?  
Why not, why not, Why not come to Him now?*

What do you hope, dear brother, To gain by a further delay?  
There's no one to save you but Jesus, There's no other way but His way.

Why do your wait, dear brother? The harvest is passing away;  
Your Saviour is longing to bless you, There's danger and death in delay.

- b) The Spirit of God in love reminds us that the opportunity of salvation is not promised tomorrow. His advice is, "To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 4:7); "For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

2. Where is the wisdom in driving at a high speed toward a cliff and hoping all will end well?

- a) I used to fly a great deal, sometimes short flights and at times very long ones. Had I not been sure every precaution had been taken to make sure the pilot and first officer were fully qualified, that the navigation officer knew what he was doing, the ground crew were diligent in their keeping the aircraft safe, what a fool I would have been to get on it and hope that all turns out well. Before I would board an aircraft I would want to make sure it was going where I wanted and not just depend on unauthorized people to inform me all is well. Yet, that is exactly what is happening in thousands of churches. So-called spiritual leaders are telling people that if they do the best they can, if they live a good life, go to church, help the poor, are good neighbours, keep the commandments, and live by the golden rule, God will be willing to let them into Heaven. Such are in a time capsule that will, for them, open up when it is too late and they discover they have been duped and are banished to Hell for eternity.

March 3rd 2023 Alex Murdaugh was convicted of two counts of murder of his wife and son. He stood before a judge and the judgement was pronounced, he will spend the next 30 years in jail. As we look back 30 years seem to have flown by but for one just being incarcerated, that is a long depressing duration. Thirty years, 10 thousand nine hundred and 56 days. When one thinks of eternity time markers are non-existent. Eternity is a timeless duration, and for those who die having never accepted Jesus Christ as the only Saviour from the wrath of God, that which lies ahead is the blackness of darkness, a state of utter hopelessness, no light at the end of the tunnel for there is no end. To live in a sphere void of any of the pleasures of earth, void of any grief counsellors or comforters and in a state of spiritual aloneness, and loss that can never be reclaimed, to be among those who weep and wail in suffering, no words can explain.

There is recorded the death of a man in the scriptures of whom what is said is said of no other. "Died Abner as a fool dieth? Thy hands were not bound, nor thy feet put into fetters: as a man falleth before wicked men, so fellest thou" (2 Sam. 3:33). Abner had been warned that if he persisted in the way he was going he would die, but he did not change

course. He had the freedom to stop and go another way but did not, and he died. What an illustration of thousands today. They have the freedom to accept the warnings of God. They are free to accept God's gracious offer of salvation yet they persist in their way and then suddenly they will die and find it is too late, all opportunities are over. How foolish were their excuses but their wilful determination cost them their soul in Hell for all eternity. God says, "Oh that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!" (Deut. 32:29).

. . . . Rowan Jennings

### "Prepare To Meet Thy God"

"Careless soul, O heed the warning,  
For your life will soon be gone;  
O how sad to face the judgment,  
Unprepared to meet thy God."

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