

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

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What Father Said

Introduction

The following situation reportedly happened during the First World War when young men and women were going to fight for the liberty of their country. On a train about to pull out of one of the major stations in England were two young men going to war. Their families were there to see them off and both fathers shouted to their respective sons. But, it was not the same war, for one was fighting against the military force of men, and the other was going to fight against the spiritual forces of Satanic darkness. One was going as a missionary, the other as a soldier. As the train began to pull slowly out one father shouted, "Give them Hell", the other shouted, "Give them Christ". One young man was seeking the subduing and death of the military enemy, and the other was going to seek to tell people of abundant life through Jesus Christ (Jn. 10:10).

Thoughts

Two young men who were living the present life, both fighting for the future, but for different reasons. It leads to the question, what is life? Is it the seeking of liberty for our homeland, or seeking the spiritual and eternal salvation of the individual? Recently I stood with an undertaker in a cemetery, where a body had just been buried. I asked him, "What is life?" He stood silent for a moment then sort of shrugged his shoulders. I said, "Can I tell you?" After the affirmative, I said, "life is a development, first a development of life and then the development of death". I explained, starting as a single cell and then we begin to develop, and after 9 months we are born. Then our development starts a different complexity as we grow. Physically we learn to crawl, walk and run. Intellectually we learn the alphabet and words, math, dates, time and where we are geographically. We learn to speak and eat, to cry when hurt. Then, around 40 years of age, something happens. It is imperceptible, but there is a new development, it is that of death. It may be our eyesight begins to deteriorate and we need glasses, or our hearing begins to fail and we need hearing aids. In time we are forced to accept the fact we cannot do that which we had done with ease before. Our bodies were slowly dying and while we were alive, these mortal frames were getting frailer and the cells were dying quicker than new ones were being made. Life is the measurement of the degree of death. Eventually, death takes over and we die. We are buried or cremated. If buried, the decomposing continues until there is nothing but perhaps a few strands of hair and cracked bone.

Is this all there is to life, this double development?

For some, while they are alive they make great inventions, others are scientific geniuses, others master musical instruments, but their body is slowly dying. The stark questions are:

- a) What is life at that moment when that final gasp comes, and the last breath rattles through our throats, and the chest drops for the last time?
- b) What will be of value at that moment? Wealth will not give an extra 20 minutes, nor will properties help. For some they shall possibly lie in a sterile hospital room, the only sound being the whirling of a machine. Time will mean nothing. Perhaps one will not be able to recall the last time the nurse came in. Eventually, the final fight for life ends and the individual enters eternity. January 16, 2023, Gina 'La Lollo' Lollobrigida reached the end of her life with her only child sitting by her bedside holding her hand. Her reminiscences were not those from a Hollywood icon, but from a woman who looked back with regret. One of the last things she said to her son was, "I did everything wrong".
- c) As I write this, there is a young woman, 28 years of age, and she has arranged to be put to death next month. She has arranged to have a coffee, then lie on a couch with her boyfriend holding her hand, the doctor will ask some questions, and then the fatal dose will be injected. Within minutes she shall fall asleep in death. The tragedy is, she has made it clear she does not know what happens after death but hopes that she will just cease to exist. What an awakening it will be when the drug has completed its grim task and she is aware she is in Hell, and there is no turning back. She cannot go back 5 minutes while drinking her coffee and accept Christ, all hope is gone forever.

Returning to our introductory thoughts, at the moment of release from this body, where will the young man go who was told to give them Hell, and the one who was told to give them Christ? The soldier who shot a mother's son because he was born in a different country, where will he go at that moment? The missionary who told the people about God who loves them and sacrificed His son for them, and offered eternal bliss if they only believe, where will he go when the final bell tolls?

The greatest decision to be made in life is, "What shall I do with Jesus, which is called Christ?" God has given everyone a free will, they can accept the offer of salvation or reject it. God will warn them of the consequences and banish them into the Lake of fire, banished from God without hope in the blackness of darkness for all eternity. The choice is the individual's. God never sends anyone to Hell, it is their own choice. They have rejected Christ, they have put off the matter of salvation, but at that final moment the habitation for eternity is sealed. As the little hymn said, "No turning back".

The grim Reaper will come to each of us. Like thousands of others, these bodies will lie in a wooden box, but where will our souls be? Not everyone goes to heaven. The minister and friends can say what others want them to say, such as: "they are with their other loved ones now", or "they are happy now, they are up there having a drink or playing golf." These are all satanic lies. If the individual has not put their dependence on the finished work of Christ, sadly that loved one is in the blackness of hell for all eternity. It is not a gradual realization of where they are, but at that minute when they pass over, they are aware that they have been a fool, neglecting God's salvation, and now they are without hope, abandoned by God for all eternity. Heaven is a place of unbounded bliss, of eternal joy. Hell is a God-forsaken place without the slightest comfort. The rich man in Luke 16 who wanted a drop of water had even enjoyed the good life, wine and luxurious foods, entertainment, but in eternity, all was gone. Our Lord on the cross bore my Hell for me. He bore the fierceness of God's wrath for every one of us. When on the cross there was no stupefying drink, nothing but unspeakable grief and agony, a sphere of not just atmospheric darkness, but spiritual darkness and an aloneness that can never be known by anyone else. Each individual will have their own Hell, for each individual will have a judgment executed according to one's opportunities to receive Christ, according to that which they knew. How futile to blame someone else for their eternal loss, for not accepting the only way of salvation because of what someone did to them. How foolish is the individual who is going to be cast into the Lake of Fire because of what was done to them? Such will curse the day they were born and curse their foolishness for being so stubborn.

... Rowan Jennings



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