

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

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

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Days of Scripture

Introduction

In some provinces of Canada there is a change to daylight savings time in the month of March. It has a rather interesting side effect on people across the world for it has been found that the overall rate of ischemic strokes was 8% higher during the first two days after the time change. One of the early promoters of changing the time was Benjamin Franklin who helped save candle wax. Also, the New Zealander entomologist, George Houston, wanted it changed to have more time to study insects in the daylight hours. In 1916 the Germans instituted a time change to boost factory proficiency and conserve energy during World War I. It was very quickly adopted by Britain and other European countries. North America adopted the time change in 1919. In the province of British Columbia, where I live, it is reported that as many as 24,732 people want to have it abolished. One interesting thing about time is, that we measure our lives in days, weeks, months, and years because of it. There are those days which are very delightful such as the day one's first child is born. There are days which are filled with sadness as one close to our heart dies. There are days we would long to live over again, and there are days we are glad when they finished.

The Bible also speaks about days, but uses the word in various connections. Sometimes it is used for a period of time such as, "the day of the Lord"; or it can be used for God's judgment and removal of the amoral earth (2 Pet. 3:12), and it can be used for a period of thousands of years as in, "the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).

It is also used for individual days which affect every individual who comes into the world. Some of these we will now consider.

The Individual Day's of Scripture

1) The day of one's birth

- a) I was born on 1 February 1944. I have no idea what day that was, I have no idea what the weather was like, and the only thing I know for sure is that I'm told by my mother and father that it was the day I was born. I have one other thing which helps me know I was born that day, I have a card from my grandmother on my first birthday a year later. The day of our birth is a day none of us can remember or know much about.
- b) When I lift us to another level, I think of another day and of another birth which I will remember and give God thanks for for all eternity. That day was 9 September 1957, for while sitting in Ballyhackamore Gospel Hall in the city of Belfast, Northern Ireland, as a lad of 13 years of age I accepted the Lord Jesus as the only way of salvation and became a Christian.

- c) The day of my physical birth I have no conscious memory of, the day of my second birth I remember quite vividly. When the Lord Jesus was speaking to Nicodemus who was "a ruler of the Jews", He said, "Ye must be born again" (Jn. 3:7), or to put it in perhaps a more precise way and in context, the Lord was saying, "No one will ever see the kingdom of God unless they have been born from above".

2) The day of one's death

- a) The patriarch Isaac recognized that his days on earth were coming to an end (in total he lived 180 years). While he had learned many things in life, one thing he did not know was the day of his death, for when speaking to his son Esau he said, "Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death" (Gen. 27:2). That is a day which none of us know ahead of time. It is irrelevant whether it is a sudden death or a long slow lingering death, no one can say, "I know the day I shall die" unless they are going to be put to death by other powers. Had anyone looked at my father on a Thursday morning, he was the picture of health, 67 years of age. He walked with my mother to the car and having opened the door he sat down, putting his briefcase in the back of the car and turning round said, "ah", and died. Dad never knew that was going to be the day of his death. My mother was repeatedly ill the last 10 years of her life but the family had no idea the day of her death.
- b) It is a question we all must face, "When that day comes, and my spirit goes from this body, where will I be in eternity?" The degrees one receives on earth, the prestige, power, or position will mean nothing then. The only thing that will matter at that moment of death will be, "Where will I spend eternity?" The Bible makes it exceedingly clear, it is either, "Heaven or Hell for all eternity". At the moment of death the unsaved individual is immediately aware they have been banished from God for all eternity and cast into a sphere of suffering, and blackness of darkness. Such an expression indicates a place in which there is no hope, no light at the end of the tunnel, no possibility of release from it. I remember many years ago being at a crematorium where the ovens are. Two bodies were being cremated and the thought came to my mind, "If I were in such a deep coma and it was presumed I had died, then put in the oven, and the moment the door closed I became fully aware of where I was, what would my reaction be?" It would be one of absolute panic. For the unsaved person who has never trusted Christ a Savior as the only way of deliverance from hell and acceptability in heaven, there are eternal consequences entered into at the moment of death because of that decision. There is a change from:
- i) the opportunity for salvation to no hope ever again
 - ii) laughter to wailing
 - iii) theory to reality
 - iv) hope to hopelessness.

In the light of this, it is only intelligent to prepare for the quickest journey we shall ever take when we pass from this life.

5) The day of resurrection

- a) Some of the most solemn words the Lord Jesus ever said are found in John's Gospel. Four times over He will repeat the truth of the day of resurrection in chapter six. Reference to it is in verses 39, 40, 44, 54, and some years later in the book of the Revelation John records a frightening truth, "And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God . . . And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them" (Rev. 20:12, 13). It is complete foolishness to try to escape the resurrection by cremation, for it is totally irrelevant how the body is disposed of. It can be cremated, it can be blown apart, it can be buried, it can be lost at sea, the fact remains, there is coming a day of resurrection for every individual. The Lord said there is coming a day when, "all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth" (Jn. 5:28-29). Sometimes I will slowly walk through cemeteries and consider, there is coming a day when that individual will be raised again from the dead as the writer to the Hebrews says, "and after death the judgment" (Heb. 9:27).

6) The day of judgment

- a) One truth stands clear as a stark reality, death cannot be avoided. No matter what I do in life I can never deny the reality that someday (if the Lord does not come and take me to himself) I shall die. An individual can live life careless of the day of assessment, but those who read these lines now know that God says, "He (that is God) hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man (Christ) whom he hath ordained" (Acts 17:31). Death is not the end, man does not die like an animal, he is not reincarnated, the individual dies, and alone each individual will stand before God.

7) The day of salvation

- a) One of the greatest blessings any individual can have is to have accepted Christ as their personal Saviour. However, one of the greatest dangers facing one not yet saved is the neglecting of the acceptance of God's gift of salvation, despite the warning question, "How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation" (Heb. 2:3). The Holy Spirit caused it to be written, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation" (2 Cor.

6:2). There are three possibilities facing every individual having heard the gospel and decided this was not the right time to accept Christ as their Savior.

- i) Firstly, God will accept the rejection as the final answer, in which case the Holy Spirit will never again convict the individual of their sin or show the way of salvation. They may hear gospel messages, they may hear gospel hymns, but never again will they ever know anything of the conviction of sin.
- ii) Secondly, the Lord has promised that He will come again but that will be a very dark day for those who have understood the gospel and rejected it. They will live the rest of their lives knowing they have rejected Christ for the last time and there is no hope for salvation.
- iii) Thirdly, going back to the beginning of our thoughts, "we know not the day of our death". The Lord told a parable about a rich man who said to himself: "I have much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry" (Lk. 12:19). God had a different message for him, saying, "Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee" (Lk. 12:20). In other words, that was going to be the night of his death. Well has the hymn writer written the words:

O sinner, the Saviour is calling for thee, long, long has He called thee in vain!
He called thee when joy lent its crown to thy days, He called thee in sorrow and pain.

*O turn, while the Saviour in mercy is waiting, and steer for the harbour light!
For how do you know but your soul may be drifting over the dead-line tonight?*

O sinner, thine ears have been deaf to His voice, thine eyes to His glory been dim!
The calls of thy Saviour have so wearied thee, oh what if they should weary Him?

O sinner, the Spirit is striving with thee! What if He should strive never more,
but leave thee alone in thy darkness to dwell, in sight of the heavenly shore?

O sinner, God's patience may weary some day, and leave thy sad soul in the blast!
By willful resistance you've drifted away, over the dead-line at last.

... Rowan Jennings

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