

# Scriptural Truths

## E-Mail Meditations

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

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### If Only

#### Introduction

On 27th July 2019 at Gilroy, California, that which ought to have been a delightful social gathering became a place of darkness and tragedy for several families. In the midst of the relaxed happiness, suddenly the peace was shattered, screaming rent the air and people ran for cover or looked anxiously for friends and family members. What had happened? An individual void of concern for others began shooting and before it was all over, a little boy only six years of age was dead, a thirteen year old girl was dead and also a young man in his twenties. Several families wrestle in grief at the stark reality of having to make funeral arrangements for a little son and daughter and a young man in his prime. A thousand times over they will possibly think or verbally express the words often repeated after a dark incident, whither it is an accident, a disaster or a death, "If only".

- a) If only they had been a couple of steps to the left or right.
- b) If only they had not gone to see some particular attraction, if only, if only, if only.
- c) If only the family members had not brought the little boy to that festival.
- d) If only the young girl had not been able to go.
- e) If only the young man had gone with his buddies to a game then these dreadful things would never have happened.

But, they did happen. Does anyone think that if the parents of the little boy or girl had known the child would have been killed that day, would they have let the child go? Had the young man known when he walked into that area he would never walk out of it alive, would he have gone? But they did not know until it was too late. "If only" they had known how that afternoon would unfold.

#### Spiritual Considerations

Every day throughout the year untold millions of people read their horoscopes and sadly, seriously believe in them. A couple of days after 9/11 I flew home from Dallas, Texas. Behind me in the queue was a lady who was speaking about her horoscope. Turning I said, "Surely you do not believe that stuff". She assured me she did. I then asked, of the 3000 people who died that tragic morning, how many of their horoscopes told them that this was their last day on earth? I had a phone call several weeks ago by a person offering to tell me my future. I asked, can you really tell me my future? The answer was a reassuring "yes". I then asked, "What did I dream about last night?" Like the soothsayers of Nebuchadnezzar's day she was stumped and asked me to repeat the question, which I did. I then asked, if you cannot tell me what happened in my life in the past, how can you tell me what will happen my life in the future?" There are only two sources for understanding. That will be, one true and one false, one from God and the other from Satan.

### **If only they had heard the warning**

- 1) When consideration of this is given spiritually, it is a known fact that there are untold thousands of individuals who like us once walked on this earth and have long since died. At the moment of death they entered the door to eternity, just as leaving one room and going into another. However, the room they left (this earth) was temporary and the one they entered is eternal. Furthermore, not only is there no coming back to this earth to make changes in their decision making, neither is there any exchanging where they are for another place. At the moment of death every individual either enters eternal bliss or eternal doom. They go from theory and the reality of Heaven or Hell forever. The Lord told the story of the rich man who was told none can go from one sphere to another. In Hell there is no golf course, no drinking at the bar with one's associates, and they are not looking up knowing there is never going to be the faintest glimmer of hope of release.
- 2) Perhaps even more tragic is the fact that while many are in Hell knowing they would be there, it was their choice in rejecting God's way of salvation, and they will possibly say:
  - a) "If only I had one more chance to accept the Saviour"
  - b) Many are in Hell and they never heard the gospel and they would say, "If only I had heard the message of God's free salvation?" The Lord spoke of this when He said, "Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city" (Matt. 10:15); And whosoever shall not receive you, nor hear you, when ye depart thence, shake off the dust under your feet for a testimony against them. Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city" (Mk. 6:11). From them we can almost hear their cries, "If only I had heard of this place of torment", but for many, nobody told them.

### **If only they had listened**

- 1) There will be those in Hell who heard the gospel, knew its sublime truths but never listened, much like a child when a parent calls. They heard but failed to listen and deeply consider the Lord's words:
  - a) Concerning them:
    - i) Of already being condemned. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God" (Jn. 3:18).
  - b) Concerning the urgency and limitations of God's callings:
    - i) The urgency of accepting Christ as the only Saviour. "(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).
    - ii) "Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts" (Heb. 4:7).
  - c) Concerning the open invitation:
    - i) "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest" (Matt. 11:28); "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the LORD: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool" (Isa. 1:18).
  - d) Concerning the limitation on time:
    - i) The possibility of an unexpected death: "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?" (Lk. 12:20).

### **If only they had accepted the invitation**

- 1) "How often would I have gathered thy children . . . and ye would not!" (Matt 23:37).

Oh, what will you do with Jesus?  
The call comes loud and sweet;  
As tenderly He bids you  
Your burdens lay at His feet;  
Oh, soul so sad and weary,  
That sweet voice speaks to thee;

#### Refrain:

*Then what you will do with Jesus?  
Oh, what shall the answer be?  
Oh, what will you do with Jesus?  
Oh what shall your answer be?*

Oh, what will you do with Jesus?  
The call comes loud and clear;  
The solemn words are sounding  
In every list'ning ear;  
Immortal life's the question,  
And joy eternally;

*. . . Rowan Jennings*

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