

Rom. 14:19
"So then we pursue the things which make for peace and the building up of one another."

John 8:32
"And ye shall know the truth and the truth shall make you free."

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HOW MUCH TIME IS LEFT?

By James Cooper

A man's house was burning. At the first sign of smoke he had rushed out to buy a fire extinguisher. Before he returned, the roof and walls had collapsed, destroying all his furnishings.

A man's doctor warned him of a bad heart condition. From the doctor's office he went immediately to the insurance salesman, but he was refused in his attempts to provide financial protection for his wife and children.

A man was endowed by God with a strong, healthy body. Because his appetite was stronger than his moral convictions, he squandered his powers until dissipation brought him to weakness. Then disease struck and without a normal reserve of strength, he could not be cured by the surgeon of what would ordinarily have been a minor ailment.

A man had a Bible, knew the church was interested in him, had friends who regularly encouraged him to live more with God. With consistency, he made reasons not to, while his conscience grew fainter, and the black wrong and white right faded into medium gray. When the critical temptation came, he was only faintly aware of it, and certainly he had no moral reserve to resist it.

David said it this way: *"For this cause everyone who is godly shall pray to You in a time when You may be found; surely in a flood of great waters they shall not come near him"* (Psalm f2:6). Jesus said the same thing in describing the five foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-1f).

When the operation begins, it is too late to take vitamin pills. When the battle begins, it's too late to train the troops. When the flood waters rise, it's too late to find a rock foundation. When Satan attacks, they can only resist who have put on their armor.

Memorize that verse now; when you need it, you

won't have time. Worship God this Lord's Day; when you need that strength, you won't have time. Repent of that sin now; when Christ comes, you won't have time. Renew your broken connection with the Lord now; at your funeral, you won't have time. Become a Christian now; in the judgment day you won't have time. Don't be almost persuaded, but lost -- obey the Lord and be saved!

by James Cooper

Our Eternal Destiny

For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have life eternal (John 3:16).

John 3:16 is probably the best known verse of the entire Bible. A companion passage is found in **Romans 5:8**, *"But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us."* Both passages speak of God's love for us and hold forth the promise of eternal life. Peter tells us that God is not slow about His promise as some count slowness, but is patient, not wishing that any would perish but wants all to come to repentance (**2 Peter 3:9**).

Enjoy every moment of this life but as you do so make sure that you include plans for the day you will fold up this earthly tent. Once the last step is taken it will be too late to do what you now have the opportunity to do (**James 4:17**). Enjoy every moment of your life but learn from Solomon the folly of not thinking about and planning for the day that we all know is coming, the day when we will shed this earthly tabernacle and move out into the eternity that awaits

(**Eccl. 2:1-11; Eccl. 12:8-14; Heb. 9:27; 2 Cor. 5:10; Acts 17:30-31**).

Spiritually, the most important aspect of our lives today is not where we have been but where we are going. Time is swiftly passing for each one of us and we simply do not have time to dwell on the past (**Phil. 3:13-14**). We must press on with hearts that are set on that home not made with hands, eternal in the heavens (**John 14:1-3; 2 Cor. 5:1; Phil. 3:20**). When we actively engage each day in those things that will make our calling and election sure (**2 Pet. 1:5-11**), when we are truly seeking first the kingdom of God (**Matt. 6:33**), when our affections are set on things above (**Col. 3:1-2**), then we can with confidence, calmness and peacefulness of soul, pillow our heads in sleep each night knowing that if we should die before we wake, the Lord our soul would take.

It is my firm conviction that if our lives are totally dedicated to God, distinctive for God and disciplined by God we will have a strong faith that will withstand all the obstacles and struggles of this earthly life (**Heb. 12:1-17**). What more is there to say? As a faithful child of God, we have an eternal destiny that has with it an inheritance which is imperishable and a crown of righteousness with a glory that will never fade away (**1 Pet. 1:3-4; 2 Tim. 4:6-8**).

With a strong faith in God, each step we take will simply carry us a little closer to our eternal home. Let it be, O let it be. To God be the glory now and forever!

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What Might Have Been

How painful is the thought expressed by one of the great poets, John Greenleaf Whittier: "For of all sad words of tongue or pen, The saddest are these: 'It might have been!'"

Many a person has thrown away his life in drug addiction, (including alcohol). Numerous are those who have thrown away their marriages by becoming involved with others. Parents have often lost their children by neglecting them, or even granting them excessive freedom. Many are those who have thrown away a good name by some ungodly behavior. Do you not suppose that a vast majority of these later in life have shed tears of bitter remorse as they have thought of "what might have been"? It is too late, however, for all has been lost.

This bitter lament is found also in the Bible. It was

expressed by the "weeping prophet," **Jeremiah (8:20)** as he sadly exclaimed, "**THE HARVEST IS PAST, THE SUMMER IS ENDED, AND WE ARE NOT SAVED.**" God had given His people ample time to repent and turn from their idolatrous, immoral ways. They had not shown any inclination to respond appropriately to His offers of mercy. When God was no longer willing to tolerate their wickedness, the Babylonian captivity became His means of teaching them a 70-year lesson. No doubt there were times in Babylon when they mourned and wept over "what might have been" if they had only listened to the voices of the prophets who had warned them.

Such lessons ought not to fall on deaf ears today. That individual who has stopped serving the Lord faithfully will one day realize what he has given up. It may be too late then to do anything about it. My dear wayward brother or sister, before the "*harvest is past*" and the "*summer is ended*," you ought to take advantage of a merciful God's offer of pardon by repentance, confession and prayer. Better that, by far, than to stand condemned in the judgment and have to think of "what might have been."

That individual, too, who has never obeyed the gospel should ponder seriously what hell is like (according to God's word) and submit himself to the rule of Christ in faith, repentance, confession and baptism before it is too late to do so. Far better this than to be separated eternally from God and think of "what might have been."

by Barney Keith

Noble-Minded Hearers

Frank Himmel

Preachers do not get to choose their audiences. If we did, we would doubtless opt for ones like the ancient Bereans, whom Luke describes as "*more noble-minded...for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so*" (**Acts 17:11**). Can you identify in this verse the five attributes of a good audience?

They are receptive. Some have no interest at all in what a preacher says. That is true not only of those who won't go to church but also of some who do. They sleep, read, daydream, or do whatever to pass the time. Amos described some in his day as asking when will this be over so we can get to doing what we want to do (**Amos 8:5**). Does that sound familiar?

They are eager. The Bereans were not merely receptive, they were eager! Learning God's will was exciting to them. *"Like newborn babes, long for the pure milk of the word, that by it you may grow in respect to salvation"* (1 Peter 2:2).

They are concerned about truth. The Bereans were not interested in being entertained. They did not want to have their ears tickled by someone telling them how great they were or saying what they wanted to hear. They wanted the truth. That desire prompted them to verify what was said. Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God; because many false prophets have gone out into the world" (1 John 4:1).

They search the Scriptures. This is the way to verify what is said. Read the Bible for yourself. You cannot always rely on the preacher's citations. Preachers sometimes misquote the Bible. They may attribute to it statements or ideas that are not there. They may leave out essential parts. God's word is truth (John 17:17), the truth that makes us free (John 8:31-32).

They search the Scriptures daily. The best hearers continue to think about what was said long after the sermon is over. They continue their verification and further study of the subject. And, of course, they put it into practice, as many Bereans did (Acts 17:12). *"But prove yourselves doers of the word, and not merely hearers who delude themselves"* (James 1:22). Are you a noble-minded hearer?

~via Manslick Road Speaker; Louisville, Kentucky. Taken from Market Street Messenger

What Lies On The Other Side

A sick man turned to his doctor, as he was preparing to leave the examination room and said, "Doctor, I am afraid to die. Tell me what lies on the other side." Very quietly, the doctor said, "I don't know." "You don't know? You, a Christian man, do not know what is on the other side?" The doctor was holding the handle of the door; on the other side of which came a sound of scratching and whining, and as he opened the door, a dog sprang into the room and leaped on him with an eager show of gladness. Turning to the patient, the doctor said, "Did you notice my dog? He's never been in this room before. He didn't know what was inside. He knew nothing except that his master was here, and when the door opened, he sprang in without fear. I know little of

what is on the other side of death, but I do know one thing...I know my Master is there and that is enough."

anon

Taken from Facebook Page of Whit Sasser

- **"We offer either in home studies in person or by way of Correspondence Courses.**
- **Call me, Jim Stauffer at 913-620-0563, Evangelist at the Lenexa church of Christ**
- **We believe in worshiping and serving the Lord as He has instructed in His word.**
- Something the Bible does not teach, yet is taught by some church leaders:
- **That the place called Hell does not really exist. Rather, when we die, those who do not inherit heaven, will simply be annihilated rather than suffer torment for eternity.**
- This is extremely important since the difference has a great impact if that is wrong.
- **"Mark 9:43-48** *"If your hand causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life crippled, than, having your two hands, to go into hell, into the unquenchable fire, [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] "If your foot causes you to stumble, cut it off; it is better for you to enter life lame, than, having your two feet, to be cast into hell, [where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.] "If your eye causes you to stumble, throw it out; it is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, than, having two eyes, to be cast into hell, where THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE, AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED."*
- We are reminded many times in Scripture, there will be a final judgment where the Lord Himself will judge us all according to what we have done while here on earth. Please review these passages that teach us of the judgment and that many will be condemned and the righteous will be rewarded with the inheritance of heaven.
- **2 Corinthians 5:10; John 5:28,29; Matthew 25:46; Acts 17:31**

Jim Stauffer

Psa. 1:1 Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the wicked, Nor standeth in the way of sinners, Nor sitteth in the seat of scoffers: 2 But his delight is in the law of Jehovah; And on his law doth he meditate day and night. 3 And he shall be like a tree planted by the streams of water, That bringeth forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also doth not wither; And whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. 4 The wicked are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind driveth away. 5 Therefore the wicked shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. 6 For Jehovah knoweth the way of the righteous; But the way of the wicked shall perish.

HOURS OF WORSHIP

- Sunday A.M. 9:30 Bible Study
- Sunday A.M. 10:20 Assembled Worship
- Sunday P.M. 5:00 Assembled Worship
- Wednesday P.M. 7:00 Bible Study and Worship

Visitors welcome

We conduct in home Bible Studies

We offer Correspondence Courses

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WEDNESDAY EVENING BIBLE CLASS
EXODUS TO SINAI - JIM
STAUFFER

SUNDAY SERMON: UNDERSTANDING
THE TWO COVENANTS



What Must I Do To Be Saved?

Hear the gospel - Romans 10:17

Believe in Jesus Christ - Hebrews 11:6

Repent of sins - Acts 17:30

Confess Christ as Lord - Romans 10:9,10

Be Baptized for remission of sins - Acts 2:38

Be Faithful unto death - Revelation 2:10