

WHAT ARE YOU SPENDING YOUR TIME ON AND WHY?

Ok, so you want to get ahead in life, you would like to get a nicer vehicle, nicer house, better job or business, get married, have kids, all the things most of us want. I can understand that, but where does your eternity fit in? How much time are you spending on your eternity? The one thing we don't think about too much is our eternity, because well, really, it just doesn't seem that important right now....does it? We've got bills to pay, problems at work, possibly problems at home or with family, everything just seems to require all of our time, and then don't forget we need to de-stress from it all, it just seems overwhelming at times doesn't it? De-stressing.... where would we be without that? We may have a certain sport we cheer on, a movie on tv to watch or some other hobby, something... anything... that gets our mind off of things, after all, there is a lot on our plate, people just don't understand what we are going through!

But the bigger question...would be...what if all these so-called urgent matters and stress and de-stressing times, if suddenly, it were all gone. What? What are you talking about? Some may say...It's not just going to be gone, just vanish??.... Well, think of this, if per chance something happened to you where you passed (yes, died, which is a more accurate, stronger word), that is when everything would vanish from you, everyone tends to think that can only happen if it is the end of the world, but guess what? If you die, it is the end of YOUR world. **(I Timothy 6:7) For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.** But we don't think too much about dying, after all, we are too busy living and not ready to die, we have a lot to do, some say...that belongs to the elderly, not us, we are too young to die...As far as I can remember....we don't get a say in that. So getting back to everything vanishing, you die and you would suddenly be in another world, all your cares and worries and problems, along with good things as well...family, friends, projects you were working on, bills, everything gone, but now...UH OH! Now you are in a bigger situation than you ever expected... **(Hebrews 9:27) And as it is appointed unto men ONCE to die, but after this the judgement.** (Sorry folks! No reincarnation here!). Now, what do you do? Trust me, this is not when you want to start thinking about all of eternity, because it's too late, that opportunity is gone, that's when eternity seems to be the only thing that is important to you now, but nothing can be done at this point, everything has already been established (cut and dry). Now, you are standing before God; thinking where will you spend all of your eternity? We will either hear....**(Matthew 25:23) Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord.** (Heaven) Or, we will hear....**(Matthew 7:23) I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity**(Hell). There is no in between...no purgatory...the decision is made right then and there....Whoa!! This is serious stuff....Heaven or Hell? Yes! It is! All of a sudden, all the things that were so important here on earth, they take on such a simplistic form of existence, you might say...why did I put so much importance on the things of this world instead of making sure my eternity was taken care of?

Just a question...wouldn't it make more sense to spend your time and effort getting your eternity in Heaven sorted out first, verses spending all your time on this temporary world? **(2 Corinthians 4:18) ...for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.** Which one is going to benefit you more? Eternity of course! Each day we get less and less time to do something about it, so do something about it while you still can! I'm surely not saying a Husband, Wife, Children or family or friends are not important, but we had better make time for our eternity and not put it off to the side as if it's not something important or something we don't need to deal with at this point in our lives.

So today, the good news is, you don't have to be in that scenario YET!...but one day you will be, so now is the time to get in place where you are going to spend eternity. First, you will need to participate in your own rescue, you may say but...I don't know how to do that? The answer is simply, it begins with a relationship with God the Father, through Jesus. **(1 Timothy 2:5) "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Jesus the Christ".** The first step is asking Jesus to forgive you of all your sins and genuinely asking and inviting him into your heart. Sadly, most stop there, they take their certificate of spiritual salvation and put it into the spiritual safe expecting to waive it around at the very last minute of death... yelling...I got it!! Here it is!!!...I got it out of the spiritual safe!!!! My friends, it doesn't work like that, it is a having a relationship with the King of Kings and Lord of Lords, He wants you to get to know Him personally one-on-one. Let me ask you a question, let's say you want to get into a certain venue and there is a bouncer at the door, if you don't know someone inside, you, my friend are not getting in, no matter how much you beg, or plead...so why do we think it is any different with the Lord. We have to know Him to get into Heaven, you just don't waive around your one little prayer that you prayed in the beginning thinking that was your entry to get in...you have to know Him.

(1 Corinthians 9:24-25) Know ye not that they which run in a race run all, but one receiveth the prize? So run, that ye may obtain. And every man that striveth for the mastery is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a corruptible crown; but we an incorruptible. What does that mean??...The verse is talking about running in a spiritual race, they all start out equal, striving to win a prize, some are in the race for a corruptible crown (something that is of this world and will pass away and won't last ...think, cracker jack box prize) while others are in the spiritual race for an incorruptible crown - something that will last, the crown of life (the ultimate prize). The one that wins the race is the one who doesn't stop running until he crosses the finish line (the finish line is physical death crossing over into spiritual life forever). Notice how running is a movement, not a leisurely pace or walk, it is a race until the end. We are active (still overcoming) when we break that spiritual ribbon, that's when we go to heaven, that is when you get your crown (the crown of life)! We are in the race to win it, we are not distracted, we have our eyes on the prize,**(Romans 8:35) nothing will separate us from Jesus...not tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword....**

(2 Timothy 4:7-8) I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing. (Revelation 3:21) "To the one who is victorious, I will give the right to sit with me on my throne, just as I was victorious and sat down with my Father on his throne" Yet, another verse saying the same thing in a different way...To the one who is victorious, to be victorious means you have to overcome something right? It means taking action right? That is how you receive your crown by overcoming, you may ask overcoming what? The world; running your race until the very end, staying on your road of salvation; finishing your course, not giving up or giving in to temptation and to the things of this world. You need to continue all the way until the very end of your life. It's staying with Jesus in your heart and being loyal to Him until the very end and turning away from sin. Notice, nothing says to you in the Bible, say a short prayer, ask for forgiveness and continue to live in sin and however you want.... (Yes, we need to repent and ask him into our heart.... but it is only the first step, not the final step)....and also you need to keep going and growing in Jesus....it's a race, it is action, it is doing what you were created to do with your life while here on earth, and **YES**, you **MUST** have action (faith) **WITH YOUR WORKS!** James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, **SO FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD ALSO**" This means that just as a body cannot function without life, true faith must be demonstrated through good works; otherwise, it is ineffective and lifeless. This is what the Bible says...still think you are getting to heaven by just a short prayer and not doing anything else; never change, never get rid of your sin? If you are in Jesus, you change, if you didn't change....yes, I am going to say it, you are not in Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17) "Therefore if any man be in Christ Jesus, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." That is what the Bible says.

So I will ask you again, you have the opportunity of getting out of that awful scenario listed above because you are still on earth reading this and have the opportunity to make things right. So yes, it does include repentance, prayer and meaning it in your heart, but more importantly it is spending time with him on a daily basis so He can instruct you and teach you and help you. (Isaiah 55:6) He says...Seek ye the LORD while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. (Genesis 6:3) And the Lord said, My Spirit shall not always strive with man. What do you think that means? It means the Lord is not always going to strive with you, meaning He's tried a long time to open up your spiritual eyes, He's sent you loving messages for a long time, endured through many difficulties with you, but one day...He won't strive with you any longer. Some people think they can wait until their very last breath and then accept Jesus. Are you so sure you will have that last moment, and isn't the Lord the one who gives you that last breath? I know of someone who just got shot and was killed instantly, (no last breath) so I implore you, don't take another second, another minute to implement your relationship with the Lord because our days, more importantly your days are numbered. What does that mean? It means, one day your ticket is up and we

don't know what day that will be. You don't have the liberty of time to put it off for one more day, or to procrastinate, **(2 Corinthians 6:2) NOW is the accepted time; behold, NOW is the day of salvation.** Put action with your words, starting today, trusting Him that He will help you, in fact ask Him to help you and thank Him in faith and by faith for helping you, because He will. **(Revelation 3:20) Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.** Meaning He will come in and visit you and commune with you if you open up the spiritual door to your heart...meaning letting Him in. He wants to have an intimate dinner (figuratively speaking as an example)...meaning He wants you to really get to know Him. How would that work? Well, when you have friends or family over for dinner, first you invited them, you expect them, you prepare your place, as well as, you are happy about them arriving, you are taking time to be with them only, not distracted by your phone or other things; not hurried, you set up a time just for them, in this case Jesus, Father God and the Holy Spirit to get to know Him. **(1 John 5:7) For there are three that bear record in heaven, the Father, the Word, and the Holy Ghost: and these three are one.**

So with everything that has been said, we want to give you a simple prayer to pray to invite Jesus into your heart **(the first step)**

Jesus, I believe you are the Son of God, that you died on the cross to rescue me from sin and death and to restore me to the Father. I choose now to repent and turn from my sins and, my self-centeredness, and every part of my life that does not please you. I choose you. I give myself to you. I receive your forgiveness and ask you to take your rightful place in my life as my Savior and Lord. Come reign in my heart, fill me with your love and your life, and help me to become a person who is truly loving—a person like you. Restore me, Jesus. Live in me. Love through me. Thank you, Jesus, Father God and the Holy Spirit. In Jesus' name I pray. Amen.

Great! You made a wonderful decision, but there is more to come... this is your first step...not your last step...there is Water Baptism and the Holy Spirit Baptism with Fire and knowing Him and becoming a new creature in Christ Jesus!

Blessings always in the name of Jesus, Amen!

† Colossians 3:17 Ministries †