

IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHEN...

Rom.14:11,12; Phil.2:9-11

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. It has been observed, “Timing is everything!”
 - a. By this expression it is meant that the same acts, efforts and convictions are effective depending upon when they occur; that is, their “timing.”
 - b. As a result of indifference, apathy, distraction or other causes, which have resulted in missed opportunities, battles have been lost, fortunes have been squandered and discoveries have gone wanting.
2. The Bible emphasizes the importance of timing in salvation.
 - a. The apostle Paul said, “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation,” 2Cor.6:2.
 - b. Jesus urged the disciples, “Take ye heed, watch and pray: for he know not when the time is,” Mk.13:33.
 - c. Jesus told the parables of “The Ten Virgins” and “The Wicked Servant” in which opportunities were lost and evil consequences ensued, Mt.24:48-51; 25:1-13.
3. It is a fact that “time will tell.” And in the matter of salvation or damnation in our life, it all depends on when...

II. DISCUSSION

A. AT SOME TIME ALL OF US WILL BE CONCERNED ABOUT THE LOST.

1. However, will it be when we actually have an opportunity to do something that may effect the salvation of a lost soul, our own or that of another, or will it be when it is too late?
2. Jesus told about such a man in Lk.16:27,28.
 - a. This man had “fared sumptuously every day,” V.19. He had taken care of his personal needs, desires, wants and expectations.
 - b. He walked past an opportunity to do something good and helpful every day, V.20. How often do we let these daily opportunities pass assured that there will always be another opportunity?

- c. When this man was swallowed in inescapable torment, his thoughts turned to others whom he had not persuaded to follow after righteousness.
- 3. It all depends on when...
 - a. How sad it will be to know that “we never mentioned Him” to family, friends and neighbors with whom we spoke “day by day.” (I often feel my own guilt here!)
 - b. How much better it would be to kindle an interest in the lost today that will produce eternal joy and reward, 1Th.2:19.

B. AT SOME TIME ALL OF US WILL MOURN FOR OUR SINS

- 1. Yet, will it be at a time when such remorse will be effective for our salvation?
 - a. The Bible speaks of a sorrow for sins that effects repentance which is not to be regretted or “repented of,” 2Cor.7:10, KJV.
 - b. At the same time, it indicates that there is a sorrow that results in death and misery.
- 2. Jesus explained the difference between these mourners over sin and identified the significance as having to do with when these men sorrowed for their sins.
 - a. In the sermon on the Mount Jesus identified the kingdom citizen as the man who is “poor in spirit,” has “mourned,” is “meek” and “hungers and thirsts after righteousness,” Mt.5:3-6.
 - b. In the parallel account of that sermon, Jesus identified this man as the one who is poor and hungers *now*, that weeps *now*, Lk.6:20,21.
 - c. However, the Lord identifies the worldling as the one who is rich, and full and laughing *now*, Lk.6:25.
- 3. Those that live in sin now and die in their sins now will then have nothing to look forward to but eternal regret: “For ye shall mourn and weep.”
 - a. Jesus made it clear that those who die in sin are cast into outer darkness where there is weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth, Mt.8:12.
 - b. Jesus is talking about missed opportunities, the regrets that men will have, and the eternal consequences that

result because they failed to act when the time was right and the opportunity existed to do what was required.

C. AT SOME TIME ALL MEN WILL COME TO BELIEVE AND CONFESS JESUS IS CHRIST

1. Can it ever be too late to believe? The Bible affirms a time that is too late, Rom.14:11,12; Phil.2:9-11.
2. Jesus told of some who did not believe in time that would later seek him to their everlasting shame, Jno.8:21; 12:42,43.
 - a. The time to believe on and confess Christ is now, 2Cor.6:2.
 - b. We should not fear what men may think about or do to us as a result of our faithfulness to the Lord, Mt.10:28,32,33
3. It will a terrible thing to confess Christ for the first time in the judgment and to hear him say, “Depart from me I have never known you,” Mt.7:23; 25:41.

D. EVERYONE WILL BE BAPTIZED AT SOME TIME –

1. Many times there is someone who leaves an assembly like this one thinking they will have another opportunity to be baptized.
 - a. I can tell you today with certainty that is the truth; you will have another opportunity to be baptized some time.
2. The baptism that Jesus requires of you today is baptism in water in his name for the remission of sins. In order to receive this baptism you must:
 - a. Believe and confess your faith in Jesus as the Christ, the Son of the Loving God, Ac.2:36,37.
 - b. You must have repented of your past sins, Ac.2:38.
 - c. Then you must act by faith in being baptized for the remission of your sins or to wash away your sins, Ac.2:38; 22:16.
3. Now, if you leave here today in sin; die in your sins and meet Christ in judgment there is another baptism that you will most assuredly receive – the baptism of fire, Mt.3:11; Lk.3:16.
 - a. Whoever’s name is not found written in the book of life is cast into the lake of fire, Rev.20:15.
 - b. These are the unbelieving and the impenitent, Rev.21:8; Cf. 2Th.1:6-10.

III. CONCLUSION

1. All of us are going to live according to God's will – one way or another – at one time or another!
 - a. It all depends on when...
 - (1) Will it be today, during this life, preparing for eternity with God?
 - (2) Or, will be in hell where God's eternal will concerning the unbeliever, the impenitent, and the rebellious, will be strictly carried out with no opportunity to break it?
 - b. Timing is everything!
 - (1) Now is the accepted time.
 - (2) Today is the day of salvation! It is now or never!
2. Why not come now and prepare for salvation in eternity?