

Thursday, March 31, 2016 - Just the Facts...

The attitude of many professing a belief in God and Jesus Christ is that they have plenty of time to make their lives right with God. What would lead one to such a foolish notion? Certainly not the scriptures.

Matthew 24:44 - Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.

A thief gives no advance announcement of his visit to your home. The visit is surprising and unpleasant. Christ will give no prior notice of His Second Coming (1 Thess. 5:2-6; 2 Pet. 3:10). No one, except The Father, knows when the Lord will come again, and since there will be no signs (such as the signs given regarding the destruction of Jerusalem), then it will be necessary for everyone to watch and be ready. Why?

In Matthew 25:1-13, Jesus shares with His followers the story of the Ten Virgins. The main message is very clear. If we are to spend eternity in Heaven, we need to be constantly watchful and prepared.

The parable tells of the wise virgins who have diligently prepared themselves for the Master's coming. Knowing that He will come, but not when, they spend their lives preparing themselves that when the time comes for Him to appear, they are ready. The Lord's return will be a blessing for them.

How are we to prepare ourselves for Christ's coming?

2 Peter 1:5-8 - But also for this very reason, giving all diligence, add to your faith virtue, to virtue knowledge, to knowledge self-control, to self-control perseverance, to perseverance godliness, to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness love. For if these things are yours and abound, you will be neither barren nor unfruitful in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:17-18 - You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware lest you also fall from your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.

But the parable also shares with us that there are those that, even though they know the Lord is coming again, refuse to be prepared. It may be the fact they are trusting on what they've done for the Lord in the past, or they believe they have plenty of time to do what they want now and reconcile with the Lord later, or they just don't feel there is a need for a relationship with The Almighty. Regardless their reason for not being prepared, the Lord will still come.

What will that experience be like for them?

Matthew 24:50-51 - ...the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him and at an hour that he is not aware of, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the hypocrites. There shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth.

Matthew 7:21-23 - "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

From this parable, we discern some very important facts. Fact 1, the Lord will come again. Fact 2, we do NOT know the time of His coming. Fact 3, the choice is completely yours whether you are prepared to meet Him in that day. Fact 4, you WILL be judged in the condition you pass from this life in. There is NO second chance! Fact 5, those found pleasing to Him in that day will spend all eternity with God in heaven. Fact 6, those who are not prepared, not ready to meet Christ in that day, will feel the wrath and fury of eternal damnation. Hell is real.

Facts can, in many instances of life, be deceiving. The facts listed above are truth. Truths that have an eternal duration.

Do the facts of your life show you prepared for your trip into eternity?