

Prepared?

The clock of life starts when you are born. As with each passing minute, you cannot get one second back. No one knows when the clock of this life will end. It could be early in life, or late in life, or somewhere in between. Only God knows the answer to that.

One thing is for certain; when death comes it takes away everything that you had in this life and everything that you would have been in this life. Death is no respecter of persons. You cannot go back and change anything in this life; it's over for all eternity.

The question is are you prepared for life after death? Are you prepared for eternity? The Bible says in John 14:6, "Jesus said unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Jesus is the only way to the Father.

A good friend was leaving work at the end of his shift on a cool spring afternoon. He would never make it passed the first red light on his way home. While stopped, and before the light could turn green, my friend would be in eternity. He had died instantly from a massive heart attack. In that moment of time as the minute hand moved from one minute to the next, his earthly time would be no more. Thank God he had received Jesus Christ as his Savior just a few months earlier. He had prepared for eternity.

At age 49, and after 31 years of marriage, on February 27th 2004 as the sun rose that morning my wife's soul rose from the bed to be with our Lord. As she exhaled her last breath on this earth she inhaled eternal life. Her death was a necessary part of life as was her birth. She had trusted Christ as her Savior as a child. She had prepared for eternity.

From there her eternal destiny was made secure. She believed what the Bible says in I John, 5:13, "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that you may know that you have eternal life, and that you may believe on the name of the Son of God." And in II Corinthians 5:8, "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

My friend and my wife of 31 years, both had prepared for an eternity with Christ. They had accepted Jesus Christ as their Savior believing what the Bible says in John 3:16-17, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved."

They demonstrated that belief as the Bible says in Romans 10:10-11, "For with the heart man believes unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. Whosoever believes on him shall not be ashamed." Both my friend and my wife were not outgoing about their salvation, but Praise God! they lived their Christianity every single day.

They both didn't just expire from this life; they went home to be with Jesus. The Bible tells us in John 14:1-4, "Let not your heart be troubled: you believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."

Whether you believe in God or not, one thing is for certain, you are going to die. You are running out of time! Rich, poor, young, old, healthy, or sick it doesn't matter, when the death angel comes, you are leaving this life to enter into eternal life. The Bible says in Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment" Where will you spend eternity, and are you prepared for it?

One day you will confess that Jesus is Lord, but will it be too late? The Bible says in Philippians 2:10-11, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in Heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; And that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the Glory of God the Father."

God loves you and he loved you before you were even born. He loves you so much that he gave his only Son a ransom for sin. To die on a cruel cross shedding his blood, and rising on the third day, to atone for your sins and mine.

Before we searched for the love of God, his love was already there. He draws us to him by his love. We did not seek that love but that love sought for us. We might resist that love and even think ourselves unworthy of it but through the shed blood of Jesus you can be worthy.

He is choosing you today. The Bible says in John 15:16, "You have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that you should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever you shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you."

It's not enough to just know the facts of Salvation; you must also know the Savior. It is my prayer today that if you are lost, you will come to a saving knowledge of Jesus Christ before it is everlasting too late, prepare for eternity. And to my fellow Christians, if you are out of fellowship with our Lord and Savior, I pray that you would resolve that today and start serving him.

God has a wonderful plan for your life. Read and study your Bible and pray everyday. He loves you; he paid the price for all sins. He was crucified on the Cross-of-Calvary and rose from the dead for you, and he's coming again. May God Bless and keep you.

In Loving Memory of Teresa Gail Hines Fields

Inspired by my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, to him I give all Glory and Praise.

By: G.L.F.

Ephesians 2:8-9