

THE BIBLE VIEW

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A Last Effort

Bill Brinkworth

“We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain. 2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”

II Cor. 6:1-2

With fall around the corner, animal life is doing what God has programmed it to do as winter arrives in the North Carolina mountains. Squirrels are scurrying about with additions to their acorn caches. Birds are stopping into my garden to ravish what they can from my garden before they fly south. Spiders are weaving their last webs to trap food, I suppose to lay that last egg that will bring in their next generation in the following spring.

After walking into many of the massive webs and almost having a huge spider land on me and possibly bite me, I started spraying them with spider poison. One large spider did an unusual thing as the spray slowly took her life.

As she sat there dying, she spun one last silvery thread before her demise. She must have known she was dying, but she did her best to do what she needed to do while she still had time. Her priority was to finish that web before it was too late.

Many spend their last years as did that spider in her last moments. For their whole life, they do as they wish; little is done for the Lord, but much is done to make life on this earth pleasurable and comfortable for them. Much effort is put into buying, and building things for this life, but little, if anything, is done to prepare for the next life. However, when death is seen as imminent, a sudden change is made in their lifestyle. They scurry about like that spider did in her last moments to finally do something for the Lord. Ignored righteous living, Bible reading, church-going, and prayer time of the past get a higher priority before it is too late. They want to preserve their life for eternity, while they still have time.

It is good that they finally got their priorities right before it was too late! Some, however few, get saved in their last years. Many that were saved in their younger lives finally start making obedience to God's commandments more important in their waning hours.

It is better now than never that they turn their lives around, but think of all the wasted time that could have been better served in living for the Lord. Think of all the heartaches, problems, and mistakes that could have been avoided if they had lived their life His way and not their own way. Think of how different this world would have been if

all got saved at a younger age and immediately lived for the Lord and by His standards. Their living example may have guided many into living righteously also!

Are you 100% sure that if you were to die today or tomorrow that you would go to Heaven? Trust Christ's death as the only payment for your sin now! You may not have tomorrow. Your heart may also get so hardened to the pleading of the Holy Spirit's call for salvation that you may never get saved later.

Have you been saved in the past, but are putting off doing what God has already laid on your heart to do — read your Bible, pray, attend church, get involved in a ministry ...? If so do it now, as you also have no promise of tomorrow, or the opportunity may be gone when you think you are ready!

“Do all the good you can by all the means you can in all the ways you can in all the places you can at all the times you can to all the people you can and as long as you can.” — *John Wesley*

A Shocking Arousal

C. H. Spurgeon

History tells us of Peter Waldo of Lyons, who was once sitting at a banquet as thoughtless and careless as any of the attendees. Suddenly, one at the table bowed his head and died while eating. Waldo was startled into thought, and went home to seek his God. He searched the Scriptures, and, according to some, became a great helper, if not the

second founder of the Waldensian church, which in the Alpine valleys kept the lamp of the Gospel burning when all around was veiled in “night”. A whole church of God was thus strengthened and perpetuated by the influence of death upon a single mind.

It is also true that Martin Luther, in his younger days, while walking with his friend Alexis, saw him struck to the ground by a flash of lightning. His experience worked in his heart to urge him to study and examine the doctrine of justification by faith. This studying helped him to be the liberator of Europe from papal bondage.

How much we owe to this weighty subject! Among the earnest, the prayerful, the holy, many must own that the thoughts of death have brought them spiritual health. Men have been helped to live by remembering that they must die: yea, some men knew nothing of the highest form of life till death aroused them from their deadly slumbers.

“In time, take time while time doth last, for there is no time when time is past.”

— Author Unknown

Work, for the Night Is Coming

Words of Hymn Written by Anna L. Coghill

1. Work, for the night is coming,
Work through the morning hours;
Work while the dew is sparkling,
Work 'mid springing flow'rs.
Work when the day grows brighter,

Work in the glowing sun;
Work, for the night is coming,
When man's work is done.

2. Work, for the night is coming,
Work through the sunny noon;
Fill brightest hours with labor,
Rest comes sure and soon.
Give every flying minute
Something to keep in store;
Work, for the night is coming,
When man works no more.

3. Work, for the night is coming,
Under the sunset skies;
While their bright tints are glowing,
Work, for daylight flies.
Work till the last beam fadeth,
Fadeth to shine no more;
Work, while the night is dark'ning,
When man's work is o'er.

**“Do something for the Lord now. You do not know if
you have ‘tomorrow’ to do so!”**

Business As Usual

C. H. Spurgeon

Let us imitate Mr. Wesley's calm anticipation of his end.

A lady once asked Mr. Wesley, "Suppose that you knew you were to die at twelve o'clock to-morrow night, how would you spend the intervening time?"

"How, madam?" he replied, "Why just as I intend to spend it now. I should preach this evening at Gloucester, and again at five tomorrow morning. After that I should ride to Tewkesbury, preach in the afternoon, and meet the society in the evening. I should then repair to friend Martin's house, who expects to entertain me; converse and pray with the family as usual; retire to my room at ten o'clock, commend myself to my heavenly Father, lie down to rest, and wake up in glory."

"There is a time to be born, and a time to die, says Solomon, but there is an interval between those two times of eternal importance." — *Richmond*

The Cure of All

C. H. Spurgeon

At Stratford-on-Bow, in the days of Queen Mary, there was once a stake erected for the burning of two martyrs. One of them was a lame man; the other a blind man.

Just when the fire was lit, the lame man hurled away his staff, and turning round, said to the blind man, "Courage, brother, this fire will cure us both."

So, can the righteous say of the grave, "Courage, the grave will cure us all. We shall leave our infirmities behind us." What encouragement this should give us to endure all our trials, for they are not of long duration.

"This world is the land of the dying; the next, for the believer, is the land of the living." — Tryon