

Milk & Honey

Vol. XXVI February, 2012 No. 2

Spiritual Food and Encouragement for Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ

It's The Last Hour; Don't Fall Asleep; Stay Awake

Matthew Henry

“Little children, it is the last hour; and as you have heard that the Antichrist is coming, even now many antichrists have come, by which we know that it is the last hour.” (1 John. 2:18)

1. **The Wake-Up Call.** “*Knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed.*” (Rom. 13:11) We have need to be often excited and stirred up to awake. Consider what time of day it is with us, and you will see it is high time to awake. It is high time to awake; for the sun has been up a great while, and shines in our faces. We are in the midst of enemies and snares. It is high time to awake, for the Philistines are upon us; our neighbor's house is on fire, and our own is in danger. The eternal happiness we chose for our portion is now nearer to us than it was when we became Christians. Let it mind our way and mend our pace, for we are now near our journey's end than we were when we had our first love. The nearer we are to our center the quicker should our motion be. Is there but a step between us and heaven, and shall we be so very slow and dull in our Christian course, and move so heavily?

2. **Watch, And Guard The Truth.** “*Watch, stand fast in the faith, be brave, be strong.*” (1 Cor. 16:13) A Christian is always in danger, and therefore should ever be on the watch; but the danger is greater at some times and under some circumstances. If a Christian would be secure, he must be on his guard; and the more his danger the greater vigilance is needful for his security. A Christian should be fixed in the faith of the gospel, and never desert nor renounce it. It is by this faith alone that he will be able to keep his ground in an hour of temptation. Christians should be manly and firm in all their contests with their enemies, in defending their faith, and maintaining their integrity. They should, in a special manner, be so in those points of faith that lie at the foundation of sound and practical religion, such as were attacked among the Corinthians. These must be maintained with solid judgment and strong resolution.

3. **Watch And Be Prayerful.** “*Continue earnestly in prayer, being vigilant (watching) in it with thanksgiving.*”

(Col. 4:2) Keep up your constant times of prayer, without being diverted from it by other business; keep your hearts close to the duty, without wandering or deadness. Christians should lay hold of all opportunities for prayer, and choose the fittest seasons, which are least liable to disturbance from other things, and keep their minds lively in the duty, and in suitable frames. “Pray without ceasing.” (1 Thess. 5:17) We should pray always, and not faint; pray without weariness, and continue in prayer, till we come to that world where prayer shall be swallowed up in praise. The meaning is not that men should do nothing but pray, but that nothing else we do should hinder prayer in its proper season. Prayer will help forward and not hinder all other lawful business, and every good work.

4. **Watch And Do Not Sleep As Others.** “*Therefore let us not sleep, as others do, but let us watch and be sober.*” (1 Thess. 5:6) We must not be secure and careless, nor indulge spiritual sloth and idleness. We must not be off our watch, but continually upon our guard against sin, and temptation to it. The generality of men are too careless of their duty and regardless of their spiritual enemies. They say, peace and safety, when they are in the greatest danger, doze away their precious moments on which eternity depends, indulging idle dreams, and have no more thoughts nor cares about another world than men that are asleep have about this. Either they do not consider the things of another world at all, because they are asleep; or they do not consider them aright, because they dream. But let us watch, and act like men that are awake, and that stand upon their guard. Shall Christians, who have the light of the blessed gospel shining in their faces, be careless about their souls, and unmindful of another world?

5. **Watch And Be Aware Of Satan's Designs.** “*Be sober, be vigilant (watchful, alert); because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour.*” (1 Pet. 5:8) The devil, the grand accuser of all the brethren; this title is derived from a word which signifies to strike through, or to stab. He would strike malignity into our natures, and poison into our souls. He is a roaring lion, hungry, fierce, strong, and cruel, the fierce and greedy pursuer of souls. To this end he is unwearied and restless in his malicious endeavors; for he always, night and day, goes about studying and contriving whom he may ensnare to their eternal ruin. Hence he infers that it is their duty to

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I'm Going To Fly Away

Erling Olsen

"We spend our years as a tale that is told. The days of our years are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they be eighty years, yet is their strength labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away. So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." (Psalm 90:9-10,12)

The phrase that appears at the close of the ninth verse reads, "we spend our years as a tale that is told." Consulting your Bible you will notice that the last three words are in italics, which means that the translators inserted these words to give sense to the phrase. Actually, it would read, "we spend our years as a tale." Now a tale is a story. In the Hebrew the word "tale" has in it the idea of a single thought. Thus the phrase could be translated, "we spend our years as a thought." Thought is often used as a symbol for speed. There is nothing as swift as thought. While it takes a ray of light, headed for this earth of ours from the nearest star, traveling at the rate of 186,324 miles per second, 6 1/4 years to reach us, in quicker time than it takes to tell, our thoughts can go from earth to heaven. Our life is so short a span that it is merely a thought. Yet the striking thing about it all is that most of us, if not all of us, spend more time thinking on this little span of life than about the eternity that lies just beyond the grave. Oh, how much time we put on this little span of life, which Moses said runs to about seventy years, and which might run to eighty years if the individual possesses a strong and healthy constitution. But what if it runs to a hundred years? What is a hundred years compared to the endless period of eternity?

Is it not a fact that we spend about 23 1/2 hours a day on this short span of life, and give the Lord probably one-half hour a day. One-half hour? Why, some of us do not even give Him a minute a day. Stop a moment and take an inventory of your life.

Moses said, "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom." David said, "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom." How much time, during the course of one day, do we devote to the Lord, to fellowship with the Lord in prayer, to reading His Word, to studying the revelation of God in creation, to helping someone else come to know the grace of God? What unprofitable servants the best of us are, and what can be said about the rest of us who are average mortals! Some have probably not given God a few seconds a day, while others really think they pay God a compliment when they spend between sixty and ninety minutes, once a week, in the local assembly. Yet Moses prayed "teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts

unto wisdom." Oh, if each of us who love the Lord Jesus Christ would recognize the claims that He has upon us so that we might live lives so filled with the Spirit of God that the joy of our hearts might flow into the lives of others!

"In the sweat of our face we must eat bread; our whole life is toilsome and troublesome; and perhaps in the midst of the years we count upon, it is soon cut off, and we fly away, and do not live out half our days. We must live under a constant apprehension of the shortness and uncertainty of life and the near approach of death and eternity. We then number our days to good purpose when thereby our hearts are inclined and engaged to true wisdom, that is, to the practice of serious godliness." (Matthew Henry)

Continued from page 1 - *It's The Last Hour...*

be vigilant; not secure or careless, but rather suspicious of constant danger from this spiritual enemy, and, under that apprehension, to be watchful and diligent to prevent his designs and save our souls.

6. WATCH AND STRENGTHEN WHAT REMAINS. "*Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have not found your works perfect before God.*" (Rev. 3:2) This church was not really what it was reputed to be. They had a name to live, but they were dead; there was a form of godliness, but not the power. Our Lord proceeds to give this degenerate church the best advice. He advises them to be upon their watch. The cause of their sinful deadness and declension was that they had let down their watch. Whenever we are off our watch, we lose ground, and therefore must return to our watchfulness against sin, and Satan, and whatever is destructive to the life and power of godliness. There were some few who had retained their integrity, but they were in danger of declining with the rest. It is a difficult thing to keep up to the life and power of godliness ourselves, when we see a universal deadness and declension prevailing round about us. *

York Bible Study

Held at North York Bible Chapel

2854 Lewisberry Rd

York, PA 17404

Starts at 10AM. Ends by 3PM

Lunch provided.

Milk & Honey Information

There is no charge for Milk & Honey. It, like all ministries of Spread The Word, is supported entirely by the freewill offerings of the Lord's people. All gifts are tax deductible.

Publisher: **Spread The Word, Inc.**

2400 Admire Springs Dr.

Dover, PA 17315

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The Blind Leading The Blind

August VanRyn

Can the blind lead the blind? Will they not both fall into the ditch? A disciple is not above his teacher, but everyone who is perfectly trained will be like his teacher. (Luke 6:39,40)

The above text is part of the first lengthy discourse of our Lord as given in the Gospel of Luke. It begins with verse 20 and continues to the end of the chapter. Its climax is reached in the superlative claims the Lord makes for His own teaching in contrast to that of the Jewish leaders; of their doctrine and conduct. The discourse falls naturally into four parts. First - verses 20-26 - Jesus contrasts the teaching of the Old Testament false prophets with that of the true ones, and the corresponding treatment received by both. The true prophets were hated, reproached, and their names cast out as evil, while the false ones were well spoken of. But false teachers in any age would never get a hearing, were it not that the people would rather hear falsehood than the truth. Men do not endure sound doctrine, but after their own lusts they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears (2 Timothy 4:3). It is because of this solemn truth that our Lord says in verse 39 of our chapter: "Can the blind lead the blind? shall they not both fall into the ditch?" He was speaking, as the fifteenth chapter of Matthew shows, of the scribes and Pharisees, the Jewish leaders. Whatever the cause of physical blindness might be men are not spiritually blind unless they want it so. The god of this world can only blind the minds of those that believe not; he has no power over a believing soul. Thus a sinner is blind because he wants to be blind; and therefore the one that is led by blind leaders, as well as the leaders fall into the ditch. How solemn it is to see thousands of souls blindly following leaders who themselves know nothing whatever of the truth of God or of His saving grace. However, a "ditch" is not as yet as deep as a grave or as the pit of hell; there is recovery possible. If men would only follow Him who leads His own to glory, by the way of the Cross.

The Lord continues in this talk to show that love is the law of true Christian life, but the leaders of Israel - being under the law - knew nothing of divine love. Love that seeks not its own, and only loves to be loved in return. Only those who love their enemies and do good and lend, hoping for nothing again, are the children of the heavenly Father, for He is kind to the unthankful and the evil. None manifested that perfect love like Christ Himself, who, when He was reviled, reviled not again, but eventually yielded Himself to the shameful death of the Cross.

In the closing verses of this chapter - verses 46-49 - our Lord makes those tremendous claims by insisting that those

who listen to Him and keep His word are truly wise, and build on the immovable Rock of eternal blessedness and security. What an astounding stand our Lord takes here! All who follow in another path but that marked out by Him, all who turn away from the truth He lived and taught, are either blind or leaders of the blind. Jesus could say before Pilate: "Everyone that is of the truth heareth My voice (John 18:37)."

Let us beware, for there are indeed many false prophets about today, denying the Lord that bought them, bringing on themselves swift destruction; as well as on all those who follow in their train. May we, who know the Lord Jesus, who have our eyes open to behold the glory of God shining in the face of Jesus Christ, be truly seeing leaders of the seeing, instead of blind leaders of the blind. It is a great privilege to make all men see the glorious news of the gospel; then to introduce them into the fellowship of the mystery - the truth concerning the Church of God, the Bride of Christ, for whom He died, and for whom He will come again. *

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Titles are shown on our web site, www.STW1982.com. If you care for a sample of a specific tract or a variety of tracts feel free to write and request them. If available they will be sent right out. *

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A non-profit ministry of
Spread The Word, Inc., 2400 Admire Springs Dr.
Dover, PA 17315

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U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit No. 333
York, PA

And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also. John 14:3

February, 2012

Did Enoch Know When He Was To Be Taken?

J. G. Bellett

“And Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God took him.” (Gen. 5:24)

The Lord communicated His purpose of judgment to Noah, but said nothing to him of the time of it. But Noah knew that it could not be till his ark was built. He knew not the time when the waters were to rise; but he knew they could not rise till he and his were lodged in safety. This was a sign, or an event necessarily forerunning the close of his history. And so with the earthly Israel. Circumstances must take place, though the day or the hour of it be not known, ere the Son of man can be here on earth again. “But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.” (Matt. 24:36) But not so with Enoch. No circumstance necessarily delayed his translation. His walk with God was not a circumstance. And that was all that led the way to his ascension. And so with the Church now gathering. She waits for no circumstance—no years measure her sojourn here; no events prepare her heavenward way. She is not put, like the Jewish election, under the restraint of any signs or preceding circumstances.

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.” (1 Thess. 4:16,17) *

It Was Nice To Meet You

Business Card Gospel Tract

Write for free tracts

Since this may be the only time we meet I want to take the opportunity to share some very good news with you. The good news is that you can know *for sure* you are going to heaven!

You can know complete forgiveness of all your sins, and be saved from God’s judgment of them. And wonderfully you do not have to earn this by religious works.

The first step in receiving this free gift of salvation is acknowledging to God that you have sinned and need forgiveness. (Rom. 3:23)

Then you need to ask God for forgiveness and accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior. (Matt. 1:21; Luke 19:10; 1 Tim. 1:15)

The Bible says, “the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” (Acts 16:31; Romans 10:9) You can’t earn salvation, but you can receive it free and *be sure* of going to heaven!

Read the Gospel of John and see how you can have the free gift of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. As you read ask God to show you this wonderful truth. *

York Bible Study Program

February 11	Amos	Carl Knott
March 10	Divine Titles	Bruce Hulshizer
April 14	Elisha	Bob Spender
May 12	Living By Faith	Steve Hulshizer
Summer break		
September 8	TBA	TBA