

# **TIME & ETERNITY – LIVING THE DASH - by D. L. Burris**

**Year – Month – Week – Day – Hour**

## **Dead Metaphor of a Wind-Up Clock**

*The Clock of Life is wound but once & no man has the power to tell*

*- just when the hands will stop – at late or early hour.*

*To lose one's wealth is sad indeed. To lose one's health is more.*

*To lose one's soul is such a loss - that no one can restore.*

## **Dead Metaphor – “Hands” of a Clock**

***THE BIG HAND REPRESENTS THE BIG DECISIONS OF LIFE***

***- SALVATION***

***- MARRIAGE***

***THE SECOND HAND REPRESENTS THE MAJOR CLASS OF DECISION***

***- PROFESSION***

***- RESIDENCY***

***THE MINUTE HAND REPRESENTS MINOR MOVEMENT OF DIRECTION***

***- FRIENDSHIP CHOICES***

***- ENTERTAINMENT CHOICES***

## NUMBERED DAYS

"If you had a bank that credited your account each morning with \$86,400, that carried over no balance from day to day, and every evening canceled whatever part of that amount you had failed to use, what would you do? Common sense would tell you to draw out every cent!

Well, you have such a bank, and its name is 'Time'! Every morning the Lord credits you with 86,400 seconds, and at night rules off as a loss whatever of this treasure you have failed to invest to a good purpose. There is no going back. There is no drawing against tomorrow.

You must live in the present - on today's deposit; therefore, invest your fleeting moments well so that in eternity you will have no regrets about time."

## **TIME AND ETERNITY – [Psalm 90:12](#)**

*If I only had One Year to Live I would...*

## READ MY BIBLE MORE

*([Psalms 119:9-11](#)) How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your word. {10} I seek you with all my heart; do not let me stray from your commands. {11} I have hidden your word in my heart that I might not sin against you.*

## BE A BETTER STEWARD OF MY MONEY

*[1CO 4:2](#) Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful.*

## BE MORE CAREFUL ABOUT WHAT I SAY

**1PE 3:10** For, "Whoever would love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from deceitful speech.

## MAKE RESTITUTION WITH OTHERS

## BE MORE THANKFUL FOR SIMPLE BLESSINGS

## I WOULD WITNESS MORE

## I WOULD PRAY MORE

## I WOULD SEEK TO DO GOD'S WILL

## **IT'S LATER THAN EVER BEFORE!**

**The magazine *Christian Truth for the Household of Faith* relates the story of a small boy who was lying on the living room floor playing with his toys. Nearby stood a large grandfather clock. Noontime was approaching, and when both hands of the old timepiece reached 12, the chimes began to ring. As he always liked to do, the little fellow counted each gong as it sounded. This time, however, something went wrong with grandfather clock's inner mechanism. Instead of stopping at 12, it kept right on chiming, 13-14-15-16 times. The boy couldn't believe his ears! He jumped to his feet and ran into the kitchen, shouting, "Grandma! Grandma! It's later than it's ever been before!" Of course, the youngster didn't understand what had happened, but in his excitement he expressed a truth we all would do well to consider.**

## ONE MORE YEAR TO LIVE – LUKE 13: 6-9

This has always been to me one of the most fascinating parables that the Lord Jesus ever told. It is a parable which is fairly familiar with all of us and it's a parable very easy to understand. It's about a man who had a fig tree who came every year to get fruit from the fig tree. In fact, he has been three consecutive years and each year he has not found any fruit. He's a little bit out of patience and he says to the one who is keeping this tree - why don't we just cut it down? He understood, as we do, that a fig tree is intended to produce figs. A fig tree is intended to be productive. There is probably nothing any more useless than an unproductive fig tree. It just takes up space, fills up the ground. The keeper of the vineyard said to the owner - "Let me have one more year to work with this fig tree and let me cultivate it a little, dig around it and let's give it one more year. You come again at the end of this year and if it bears fruit - well; but if not let's just cut this fig tree down."

So, really what we have in this parable is a fig tree that has only possibly one more year to live. I have often thought about that picture here and have widened it to apply to my own heart and to the lives of other people. I wonder what would you and I do if we knew that we had only one more year to live.

### **I. THERE WOULD BE A CHANGE IN MY ATTITUDE**

If I had but one year to live I'm sure that there would be a change in some of my attitudes. There are things that seem so important now that would suddenly become unimportant in my eyes.

What the apostle John wrote in 1 John 2:16 17 would take on new significance to me: "Everything in the world the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes & the boasting of what he has & does comes not from the Father but from the world.

“The world & its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever.”

For me, at least, my time in this world would soon be over. Many things in this world would no longer be as attractive to me as they have been in the past. And some of my attitudes would change, too.

A. I would be more concerned about how I used my time, & I would use my time more wisely. Most of us act as if we had all the time in the world.

B. I wouldn't become excited over insignificant things. All those little things that now "get under my skin" would seem so unimportant. I would try to be more patient, understanding, kind, & loving. All the acts & words of love that I should have done or said before, I would now try to do.

C. I would enjoy life more. I think that I would begin to understand how blind Bartimaeus must have felt when at last he could see. Only for me I would be looking around at scenes and faces, realizing that some of them I would be seeing for the very last time.

## **II. I WOULD DO MY BEST TO MAKE EVERYTHING RIGHT BETWEEN ME & OTHERS**

A. Again, "If I had but one year to live" I would do my best to make everything right between me & others. I would try to straighten out any problems between us.

Jesus said, "First be reconciled to your brother." (Matthew 5:24) With one year to live I don't need any enemies! So no longer would pride keep me from saying, "I'm sorry. Will you forgive me?"

B. Furthermore, I would hold no grudges. I would wipe my grudge board clean because I want God to forgive me, & I know that God says that He will forgive me in exactly the same way that I forgive others.

So, whether I considered them big or small, I would try to find my faults by comparing the Scriptures & my life. And when I discovered those sins, I would do something about them.

C. I would seek also to lead as many people to Christ as possible. By this, I will be making the greatest contribution I could possibly make to the welfare of the world. In leading a soul to Christ, we start a memorial that will never end. For that soul will influence others & they will influence still others. And on & on the unending chain reaction goes.

### **III. I WOULD BE CONCERNED ABOUT MY FAMILY**

Again, "If I had but one year to live" I would be concerned about my family. I am sure that I would carefully consider, "What do I need to do to protect my family before I die?" Will their needs be taken care of?

But with my change of attitude about things of real value, their spiritual welfare would be my greatest concern. Solomon said: "Train up a child in the way he should go: & when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22:6)

In the short time remaining, I would do what I could to reinforce the faith that they have, & to encourage them always to walk in the ways of Christ.

And to do that, I would not just tell them how they ought to live, I would do my best to show them – to model for them the kind of a life that Jesus wants us to live!

## **IV. I WOULD PAY CAREFUL ATTENTION TO MY OWN SPIRITUAL LIFE**

In only a year my soul would be passing into the presence of God. In His presence only the spiritual will have any value. If I am to be ready for that occasion, I must develop my spiritual life.

A. First of all, I would attend all the services of the church because they are designed for the specific purpose of developing me spiritually.

Then I would want to take an active part in the work of the church. I would not wait to be asked to do something; I would volunteer. I would try to do anything I could, & I would be saddened because I had not developed my talents & abilities where I could do more.

But I would do what I could, for I would want to hear Jesus say, "Well done thou good & faithful servant."

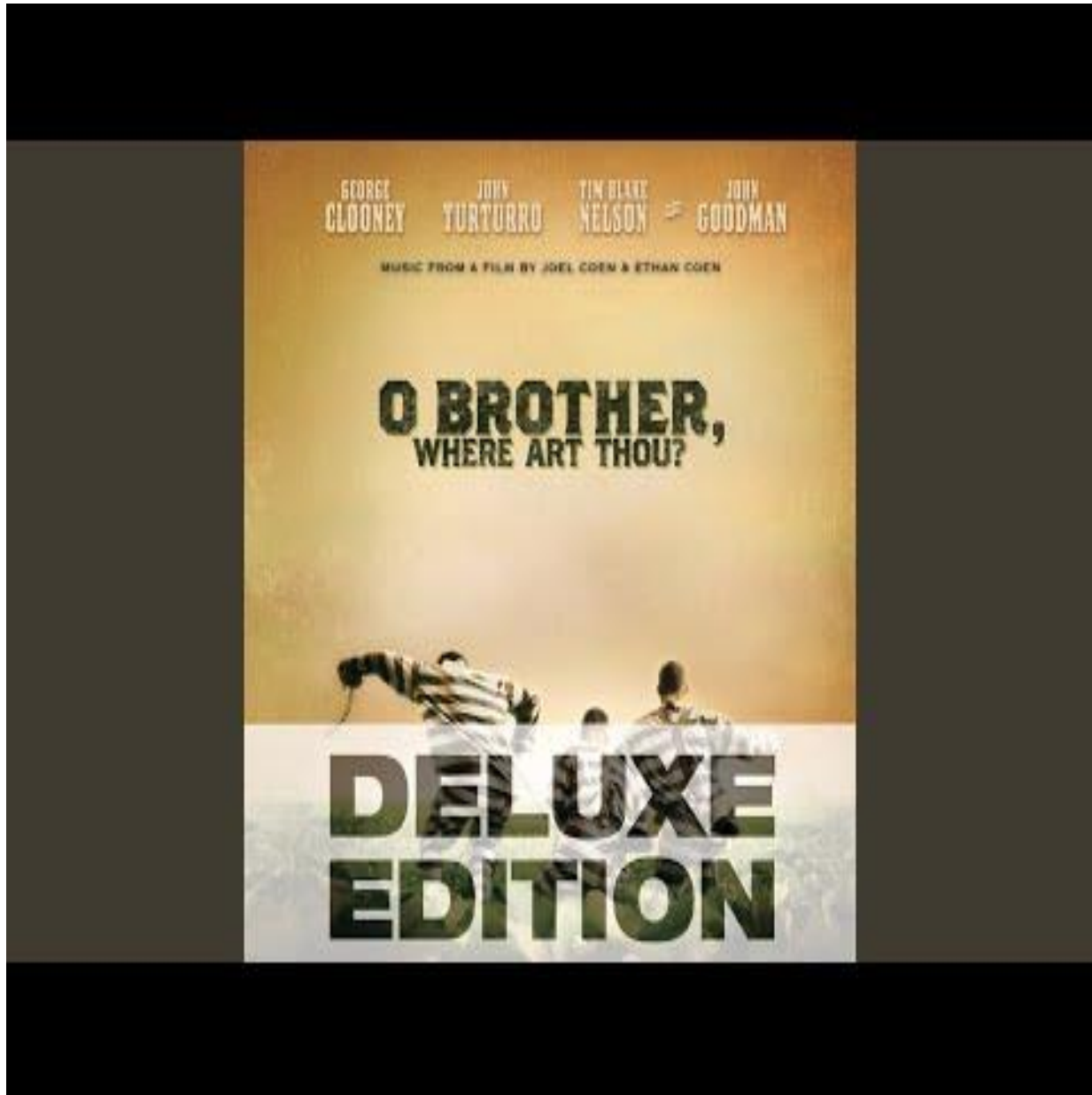
And I would try to be more consistent in my efforts. It is easy to "run hot & cold," to be "up & down" & "off & on" in the Lord's service. But I read of the early Christians "they continued steadfastly." (Acts 2:42)

And Paul said to "be steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58) Jesus Himself said that He hated lukewarmness in His followers (Revelation 3:16).

So, I would want to run hot all the time for the Lord. And this little poem would become precious to me. "'Tis but one life, 'twill soon be past. Only what's done for Christ will last."

B. Secondly, I would study my Bible regularly, & there would be no excuses offered such as "I'm too tired," or "I just can't find the time." If I am honest with myself, I must admit that I spend a great deal more time now with the TV than I do with God's Word!

But when the things of this world begin to lose their appeal, it will be natural for me to turn more & more to the Bible. - *James Merritt*



**Reading: *Isaiah 38:1-6; 39:5-8***

**TIME AND ETERNITY – [Psalm 90:12](#)**

*If I only had One Month to Live I would...*



Part\_Two



## The “Bucket Lists” Of Life’s Last Month

It hit national consciousness in 2007 through the tale of two men, played by Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman, who both discovered they had a limited time left to live. The idea of a bucket list may not have been birthed by the movie but it was certainly highlighted! So, since we have been wrestling with the idea of what we would do if we discovered we only had one month to live I want us to stop for just a moment and I want each of you to fill in the three blanks in your bulletin. If you knew you only had 30 days left what 3 things would you want to accomplish? What 3 things are your highest and loftiest goals that if money couldn’t stop you and all limitations were removed you would do that would **make you feel like you had really lived**? Now lean over and show your neighbor your top item.

The concept of a bucket list can be helpful because it **forces you to live with the end in mind**. I think the reason the movie struck such a nerve is because it chronicled the lives of two men who were forced to face their end. What I want to challenge today is whether your list is really a reflection of what is most important in life. I think the best way to accomplish that is by examining a **bucket list that can be found in Scripture**. Crafted by a man who is now face to face with his own end it gives us a very clear picture of what may just be the template of a godly bucket list.

Paul is once again in prison in Rome. Time is about to run out. One month to live is not a sermon series for Paul it is a reality. He is about to be martyred . . . decapitated by the Roman Emperor Nero. So, with his last few days clearly in front of him he puts pen to paper to his spiritual son, Timothy, and in so doing sums up what really mattered when the end was so close at hand.

2 Timothy 4:6-7(MEV)

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, and I have kept the faith.

When it came down to it there were **only three things that really mattered** to Paul.

## **The fight.**

Paul states I have fought the good fight! I can't say I know exactly what he was thinking but I think perhaps he is saying that when he reviewed life what matters was that he gave his best every day. He didn't take a day off or let down his guard in his attempt to live and use every day to accomplish God's purpose for his life. It is interesting that he called it a fight. He would testify that it wasn't easy. It was a battle. I think we fail to live at Paul's standards because we fail to view our journey like Paul did. He recognized that we live life behind enemy lines. In review of his life he states I fought faithfully day by day. I stayed in the fight. I stayed alert, on guard, diligent and determined. He is saying, "I never quit!" "I never threw in the towel!" I fought every moment every day. I was a warrior in a war.

This steadfastness was important to Paul. It was on his bucket list. That he would remain faithful to his commitment was a big deal to Paul. Maybe he could have said I kept my word, I kept my vow, I kept my promise. My word mattered.

Can you review your life and say you have stayed in the fight? Have you faithfully warred for the important? Or have you warred for things that don't really matter? Have you let your guard down? Loafed? Become distracted? Paul said he fought THE fight. The right fight. The one that mattered. What kind of fight are you fighting? Is it worth your life? Does it matter? Is it THE fight?

## **The finish.**

Paul then states that as he reviews his life he achieved another item on the bucket list . . . He finished the race. Similar but speaks to idea of completion. I finished what I started. It was important to Paul that he finish! He didn't want to be known as someone who started something and didn't complete it.

In 1 Kings one of the Kings of Israel responds to a warrior by saying "One who puts on armor should not boast like the one who takes it off." He is saying, don't boast when you start the fight but rather when you are able to return home and are able to take the armor off because that will mean that you have finished well. The king knew that so many people start but never finish!

## **The faith.**

Paul finishes reviewing his bucket list and says I kept the faith. When it came down to the last moments of his life he believed his faith was important. He held onto his faith.

Man if Paul had to go through what I have gone through he would have taken that off his list.

Remember Paul didn't hold onto his faith without his faith being challenged! This is the man that was given 39 stripes by the Jews five different times. He was beaten with rods 3 times. Stoned once. Shipwrecked. Bitten by a snake. He faced prolonged hunger and thirst. And yet through it all he states I kept the faith. He comes to the end and concludes that the challenge to his faith only deepened his faith.

When you review what you have endured can you say the same? When your time comes to a close will you be able to state I kept the faith? Did the challenge you faced cause you to curl up and quit? Or will you be able to say what I went through was painful and brutal but through it all I didn't give up on Jesus! I didn't give up on trusting God. I didn't take matters into my own hands. I relied on Him!

I want you to look back at the three things you wrote down on your bucket list. I want you to reflect for a few moments on what Paul's list contained fight, finish and faith. Maybe visiting that site, eating that dish, seeing that place doesn't seem to matter so much when you hear what mattered to a man that is about to die. How does your bucket list match up to Paul's list? **Maybe your list needs to be adjusted.** Maybe the things on your list aren't as life worthy as you thought. Maybe the things on your list need to be changed! If you live with the end in mind what really matters? What is it that you want and need to accomplish so that on your last day you can say I fought, I finished, I kept the faith? What matters? Who matters? Why even consider that now? Because we have to **wrestle with the question of not only what matters but also with the fact that the when matters!**

But what if you only had 30 days to live? What if the clock is ticking down and your number is up? I have already challenged you that the last day will come. We are not assured of more days. So, that should cause us to consider those that come after us. And yet I would venture to say that most of us don't. The proverbial sticker on the back of the RV that says "I'm spending my kids inheritance!" Really does give us a glimpse into our lack of looking over our shoulder.

Scripture provides a contrast of ways of living that I want us to look at and allow to challenge us!

The way we are supposed to live is revealed in Psalm 78:1-7.

*Listen, dear friends, to God's truth, bend your ears to what I tell you. I'm chewing on the morsel of a proverb; I'll let you in on the sweet old truths, Stories we heard from our fathers, counsel we learned at our mother's knee. We're not keeping this to ourselves, we're passing it along to the next generation— God's fame and fortune, the marvelous things he has done. He planted a witness in Jacob, set his Word firmly in Israel, Then, commanded our parents to teach it to their children So the next generation would know, and all the generations to come— Know the truth and tell the stories so their children can trust in God, Never forget the works of God but keep his commands to the letter.*

So, the standard or mode of operation that one King (David) gives us is to look over our shoulder and take care of the generations coming after us. And by the way if you are sitting here and you have no physical or natural offspring may I remind you that in the New Testament Paul chimes in regarding the spiritual family and says that the older generation should train the coming generation. In other words, keep an eye on those who are after you. That is the standard we should aspire to.

– Steve Ely

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If I had one month to live, surely it might open my eyes up to seeing my blessings as blessings, rather than bearing them like burdens. Perhaps I would make the phone call that I had put off for so many years. Perhaps I would ask forgiveness for a wrong that I had committed. Is it noble to make it right when there shall be no responsibility or burden of living rightly after that?

At the end of our lives we often see things with increased clarity. I am convinced that it is because at the end all of our false pretense is stripped away. Now we have nothing to shield us from being honest with self, with others, or with God.

We don't know what tomorrow will bring. Quoting Alan Sachs, the author writes "Death is more universal than life. **Everyone dies but not everyone lives.**" Harold Kushner once wrote, "I am convinced that it is not the fear of death, of our lives ending, that haunts our sleep so much as the fear ... that as far as the world is concerned, we might as well never have lived."

Indeed, our time on this earth is limited. No matter how uncomfortable it is for you or I, there is one universal principal in this life; it will end for us all. The question is not "how do I avoid death."

Rather, it is "**how do I avoid not having lived.**" The reality of our own mortality, though, should not paralyze us but fuel us. **Why is life short? It is short so that it has immediate meaning.** My life and yours is happening right now, this second!

## **Transition**

For a good amount of my life I lived as though my life had not yet started. When I was a child I remember thinking how great it would be when I got bigger.

When I got bigger I remember thinking how wonderful it would be when I could get out on my own and make my life what I wanted it to be.

As a young adult I remember thinking how great my life would be when I graduated college and accomplished my dreams. Then one day it occurred to me that I was always looking off to the future and not really living for today.

It occurred to me that my life is happening right now, not some day!

### **Rich is relative.**

You might think why address material things when talking about time. However, the truth is most of us are actively giving our life away day by day and minute by minute for stuff. If we are going to avoid wasting time we must also address material things. Rich is relative.

This account illustrates this truth . . . You can be money rich and time poor. If you give away all your time and all you have to show for it is money, toys, houses, and stuff you may be rich but you may also be poor! **The currency required to gain stuff is time.** I don't think Jesus is against stuff. He is simply trying to get us to recognize that there is a different way to evaluate and estimate success.

The man was rich but he was poor. He had stuff but he had no seconds. His perspective is unique in that we get to see what he sees looking backwards. His backwards view shows us in retrospect he determined he wasted his life. He **accumulated property but in the process he lost priorities.** He would trade all of his stuff for a second to warn those he loved not to make the same mistake.

This account begs this question . . . What does it profit a man if you gain the whole world but lose your soul?



The rich man would scream don't waste your time! Get the stuff but make sure you also secure your soul and loved ones. I want you to notice how selfish he was in life . . . he didn't take care of the poor man. Also, notice how selfish in death . . . bring me water and then second he worries about his brothers.

Are you wasting your life? The problem with this truth is that so many of us are already so far down the wrong track! We have already given years or even decades in this rat race to get ahead and succeed that we can't get the time back. We have lived so selfishly that If we start thinking about reprioritizing and making changes, then we either get depressed or give up because we know time is lost. However, we forget another truth from this account.

I bring this to your attention because I want you to notice the man's life wasn't broken down into segments. He didn't say you had until you were 40 to make changes and then it was too late. You could have made adjustments until 60 but then it is too late. No! He said instead you had a lifetime. I think we set these invisible lines and we think that if we pass these lines we can't make course corrections.

The truth of this story is simply that it is never too late until it is too late. As long as you still have life time then you can adjust and choose to quit wasting your life on things that don't matter.

It is not that we have a short space of time, but that we waste much of it. **Life is long enough and it has been given in sufficiently generous measure to all the accomplishment of the very greatest things if the whole of it is well invested.**

**One man correctly said . . . The opportunity of a lifetime is only good during the lifetime of the opportunity.**

The question isn't how old you are you? The question is do you have life time? If you have life time, then you can reflect and adjust. In fact, I think that is what Jesus was trying to get us to do!

## **To reflect before we regret!**

He knew that if we don't stop and determine what matters we will not only waste our lives but, like the rich man, we will ultimately look back when we have no time and we will regret.

## **Time can be redeemed!**

Paul weighs in on this concept when in Ephesians 5 he encourages us to redeem time. He says to examine the times we live in (which he describes as evil) . . . Reflect, reprioritize and then redeem.

We understand the idea of redeeming a soul, a life, a relationship but Paul says that time can be redeemed. What does that mean? Does it mean we suddenly get all the time we have wasted back? Does it mean we experience Ground Hog Day and get to do it all over? NO! It means we wake up and make the most of the life time we have left. **It means we gain perspective and quit wasting our allotted time on trivial pursuits. Paul wants us to know that time can't be saved but it can be redeemed. The time left in our life can be lived on point and on priorities.** Jesus even talks about workers that show up late in harvest and He says they receive the same reward as those who were in the harvest from the beginning. **Why? It isn't about the age it is about the time! Time can be redeemed.** So, in a nutshell if we are going to learn the lesson this rich man needed to learn we must learn what matters or we will waste time. The fact is a wasted life is nothing more than a collection of wasted days!

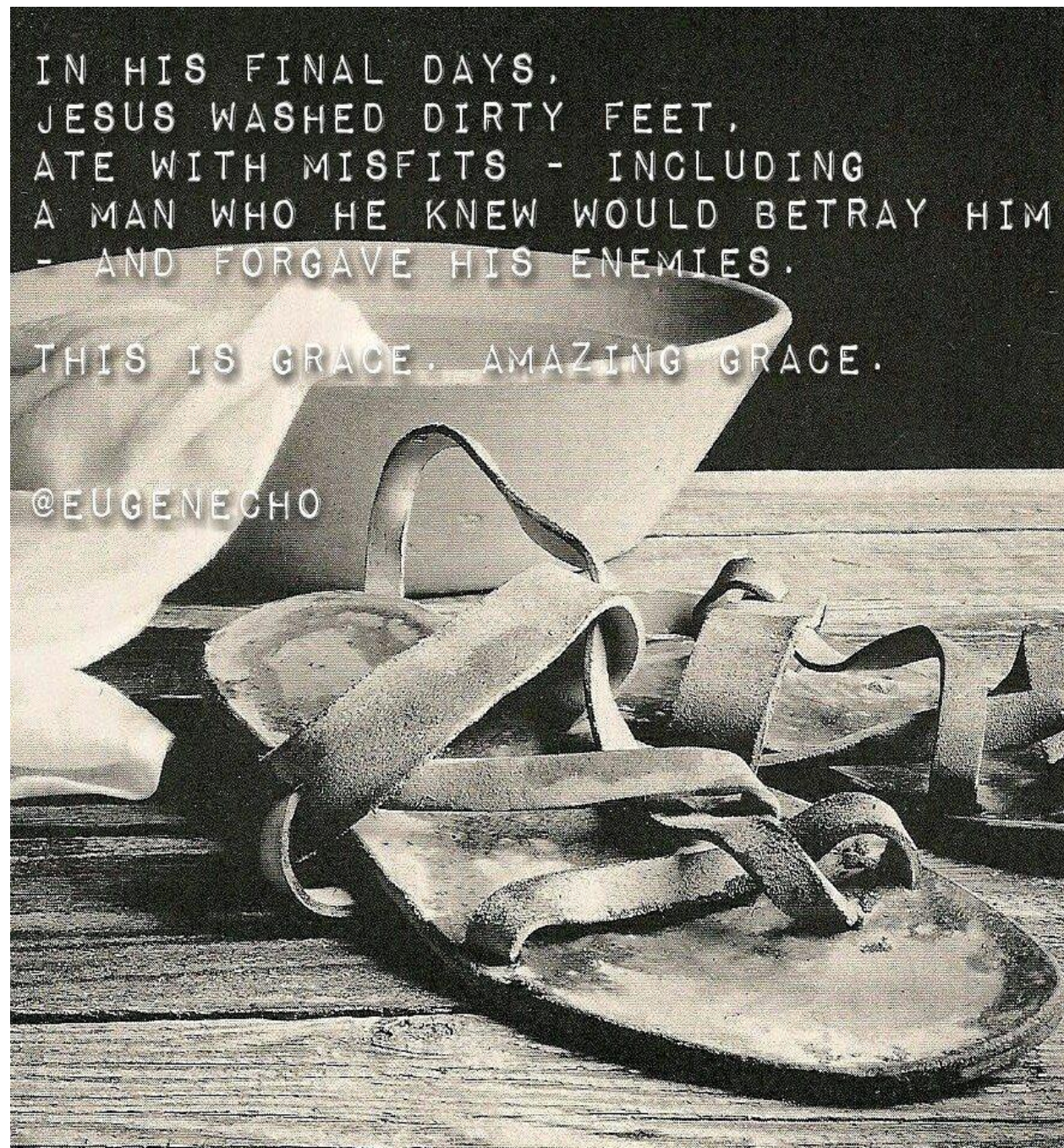
Charles Francis Adams, son of President John Quincy Adams and grandson of President John Adams, kept a diary. One day he entered: "Went fishing with my son today—a day wasted."

His son, Brook Adams, also kept a diary, which is still in existence. On that same day, Brook Adams made this entry: "Went fishing with my father—the most wonderful day of my life!" – *Open Source Internet*

Part\_Three

## **TIME AND ETERNITY** – [Psalm 90:12](#)

*If I only had One Week to Live I would...*



## What did Jesus do during his final week? Not quite a typical bucket list like ours:

- **Jesus chooses to “splurge” on a borrowed donkey (aka ass)** and a colt to enter into Jerusalem. Maximum speed: 2 miles per hour. Maybe.
- Jesus turns tables, lashes his whip, and cleanses out the Temple. Some basic spring cleaning. So much for avoiding conflict and having a restful and peaceful final week.
- Jesus chooses to wash the feet of his own disciples. And remember that a) feet were extremely dirty, and b) foot washing was the duty of the lowliest of slaves.
- Jesus eats a meal with his closest friends – a bunch of misfits. And...they're still arguing and fighting for position.
- Jesus prays in agony at the Garden of Gethsemane. He prays till he bleeds. Literally. It's called *hematohidrosis*.
- Jesus is betrayed by one of his closer friends...for 30 silver coins. And just in case you can't connect the dots, he was eating his final meal with Judas – who He knew was going to betray him. And oh, Jesus washed his feet, too.
- Jesus is captured, beaten, mocked, flogged, whipped, spat upon, and...
- **Jesus is crucified and murdered.**

## What a final week...

Jesus was human but he was also fully God and in his fully divinity, he chose to assume flesh and bone. He came and dwelt among us. He lived. He showed us the way. He loved. He healed. He taught. He forgave. He rebuked. He loved. And Jesus went to the Cross and died for the sins of the world.

## **TIME AND ETERNITY – Psalm 90:12**

### *If I only had One Day to Live I would...*

**If You Had One More Day To Life!!**

**IF YOU HAD ONE MORE DAY TO LIFE!!**

**IF YOU HAD ONE MORE DAY TO LIFE!!**

**Intro:**

A. Death is a very scary thought to each and every one of us.

1. I believe that it would be correct for me to say that each and every one has wondered what death holds in store for themselves:

a. How will I eventually Die??? By fire, car accident, Drowning...etc...How will I DIE?

b. This is a very disturbing thought as each and everyone of us knows that death is inevitable....Heb. 9:27.

B. However, one must realize the importance that as Hezekiah was told to set his house in order, as he would soon die,...II Kings 20:1 so are we also told the same thing in the N.T....James 4:13-16 ; Mark 13:32-33, 37.

1. Many of us would think this was a bad situation, (being told that you would die shortly), yet we need to see the blessings of this knowledge.

a. The knowledge of death provoked a changed attitude.

b. The knowledge of death led Him closer to God.

c. The knowledge of death turned His face to the wall and wept bitterly to the Lord, displaying his dependency upon the Lord for forgiveness.

2. The same should be true of the Christian today.

a. We have the knowledge of pending death...Heb. 9:27.

b. We have the knowledge of the time when this is to occur...could be any time... Matt. 25:13.

c. With this knowledge we should have the same attitude and reaction that Hezekiah displayed in II Kings 20:2-4.

d. Our houses should be set in order at All times, 24 hours a day, 52 weeks a year...ect.

3. Yet the sad truth of the matter is that many of us think that we have much time to spare and that when we have done all the things that we think are important we will get our lives straight with the Lord.

C. So on this thought I want us to consider this vitally important question...IF YOU HAD ONE MORE DAY TO LIVE WHAT WOULD YOU DO???

1. This is truly a sobering thought!

a. Some Atheists would do nothing, Yet, we who are believers in Christ come to the realization that in 24 hours I'm going to stand before my Creator and will have to give an account of the good and evil that I have done in this life...Eccl.12:13-14.

b. Will I stand approved of God or will it be disapproval?

c. Would a run around frantic trying to right all the wrongs that I have caused or would I just continue to Live like I presently am.

2. This knowledge of oncoming death should provoke us to examine our lives and our deeds to see whether our ways are God's ways.

D. So let us consider some sobering thoughts that we should examine in our lives.

Body:

I. WHAT SOME NEED TO DO!

A. We would not put off things until tomorrow.

1. Eccl. 12:1 ; II Cor. 6:1 ; Acts 24:25 ; James 4:17.

a. If we were to die in 24 hours we certainly would like to use every single minute that we have for God work. We will not spend time frivolously or foolishly, knowing that every minute counts.

2. Procrastination is truly the thief of souls... Heb.3:13,15. Certainly the expression..."I'm too busy" will seem foolish to the one who only has 24 hours to live.

B. Fourthly we would not continue to take the gifts of God for granted.

1. So many forget the great sacrifice that Christ paid on our behalf...John 3:16 ; Rom. 5:8.

2. So many forget the great gift that we have of being able to assemble with others members of like precious faith...

Heb. 10:24-25.

3. Praying for our health, food, and our families well being would not seem foolishness to us anymore...James 1:17.

C. Fifthly we would not take chances doing questionable things.

1. We might think well just this one time, but that one time might be all it takes to lose your soul.

2. Each and every day would be filled with walking for Him.

D. Sixthly we would not be indefinitely undecided in religion.

1. Some say they are concerned about spiritual things but truly are undecided as to what to do about it...Rom. 14:23.

2. Some are "almost persuaded" yet with 24 hours will they be "almost persuaded" and go to our graves as such.

a. Will our Epitaphs read..."He/She. was almost persuaded to do right.

3. Consider Acts 17:11 they were only persuaded by the investigation of what was being taught.

a. Consider the Ethiopian Eunuch's reaction...

1) Could have said..."I'll wait till I get home"

2) Yet His reaction was...Acts 8:32-38.

II. WHAT WOULD OR SHOULD WE DO? ...Do all that is needful to put one's house in order.

A. We should search ourselves...II Cor. 13:5.

1. Criticism of others become of less importance.

2. Look towards ourselves...Matt. 7:1-5; Lk. 15:17.

3. We would reflect upon the number of years that we have spent in foolish living.

B. We would spend time in the study of God's Word...

II Tim. 2:15.

1. We would love its precepts...Psa.119:71,72; Psa. 1:2.

2. We would be interested in religious discussions not worldly thoughts.

C. We would spend time in Prayer...I Thess. 5:17.

D. We would become faithful in our service to the Lord.

1. By becoming a Christian in the true sense of the word.

2. I would not argue about Baptism. Or attendance... Mk 16:16; Heb 10:25.

E. Certainly we would fix up all the wrongs we have with others...Matthew 5:23,24.

1. We will try and be reconciled... Matt.18:15.

2. Pray for those...Matthew 5:44-45.

a. We would no longer hold grudges towards others.

## Conclusion:

A. The Christian should live each day as though it were his last...Matthew 24:36-46.

B. The Christian would realize that there is no assurance of tomorrow...Prov. 27:1; Mk. 13:32-33; James 4:14.

C. The Christian will also realize that we need to redeem the time while we still have it...Eph. 5:15-16.

D. It's too late after death!



# If I Only Had One Day, I'd Want To:

## BE FOUND IN MY PLACE

**A. In My Place Of Service** - David tells us that he had rather be the lowly door keeper in the House of God than to enjoy the all the wealth and luxury of evil. In other words, David says that he would rather be found serving the Lord than serving the Devil! I say "Amen" to that! The Bible makes it clear that every saint of God has a special place of ministry and service to the Lord, 1 Corinthians 12:7-12. Now, while some positions are more visible than others, none is any more or less valuable than any other position in the body of Christ. The greatest thing a man can say is that he is being faithful to the task God has called him to. If I had one day to live, I would want to be found in my place of service doing what the Lord has called me to do!

**B. In My Place Of Surrender** - The words "my God" seem to infer a sense of devotion to God. David is saying that he wants to be found in his place, surrendered to the perfect will of God for his life. In other words, he wants to die on the battlefield faithfully serving the Lord who sought him and bought him out of sin and destruction. If I had just one day to live, I'd want to live it still surrendered to the Lord's will for my life. There is no higher calling than that of simply being what the Lord wants you to be!

**C. In My Place Of Satisfaction** - David is telling us by his decision that he believes the Lord's worst is still better than the devil's best! The surrendered saint has learned something that the world never gets a handle on, "all the devil's apples have worms!" Nothing's more satisfying than serving the Lord and knowing that you are in His will. If I had but one day to live, I'd still want to be found in my place serving my sweet Lord!

## **TIME AND ETERNITY – Psalm 90:12**

*If I only had ONE HOUR TO LIVE I would...*

**All hope for the future was gone now. The doctors, nurses and hospital personnel had done all they could do. Now it was only a matter of time.**

**Time – the one commodity of life that we all take so much for granted when we have it. But time was not this man’s friend anymore. Time had become his enemy.**

**Now all that remained of time for this poor soul was one more hour. That was all the doctors had given him to live.**

**There, on the wall, hung his enemy; and at the same time, his greatest friend. It was a clock that just hung there in almost mute silence, glaring down upon him, gloating over its power to end his life.**

**Tic-Toc; Tic-Toc was the only sound it made as it hung there doing what it had always done before. The man could hardly see it anymore, but he was keenly aware that it was there, steadily moving to the end of the hour and the end of his life.**

**He could see that second hand as it so quickly made its journey around the circle, one second at a time.**

**As he looked at that second hand moving along, he was reminded of the swiftness of the passing of time when we are busy, active and carefree. How many seconds, minutes, hours and days had he wasted? How much of his life counted for nothing.**

**He knew that the second hand on that clock was going on, and would continue to go on, long after his time on earth had ended. He stared at it, concentrating as hard as he could, hoping that somehow, through wishful thinking and the power of his mind, that he could just slow that second hand just a little to gain a few extra seconds, but it was to no avail. The seconds just steadily ticked away. Around and around it went, and with each trip around he knew that there was one minute less for life to be his.**

Those minutes were passing all too quickly. He began to remember the wasted minutes around the water cooler at work. Those wasted minutes when he sat at his desk just waiting impatiently for the quitting bell to ring so he could rush off to continue doing what he wanted to do. Oh, if only he could redeem those minutes now! How much more could he make of his life if he could only bring back those wasted minutes. But it was impossible to do. He knew first hand what that old saying meant, "Time waits for no man." His minutes and seconds were passing away one by one, by one - the clock kept on ticking.

He had been given only one more hour, and now it was half over. He could feel the cold hand of death as it began to grip his body. His limbs were as heavy as lead weights and he could move them no more. He could barely have the strength to gasp for one more breath, and yet his mind remained fixed upon that clock, watching as his time drew nearer and nearer.

As he watched the second hand go around, and the minute hand slowly, but surely moved around the face of the clock, he noticed that, in the background, that hour hand was ever so slowly moving onward. That was the one he feared the most, for it was that hour hand that would show the final hour of his life as it came to an end.

He thought about that hour hand and it reminded him of the fact that we often forget that the seconds and minutes are the building blocks of the hours of our life. We are caught up in the rat race of life, like the fast moving of the second hand. Then we see the days go by one by one, like the minutes that are driven and burned away one at a time. We often forget of the passing hour hand because it moves so slowly that sometimes it's almost imperceptible. Yet it is moving.

He remembered those few times when he would walk into the doors of the church and listen for a few seconds as the preacher brought forth the message. All of that had seemed so unimportant at the time. Now, if only he could go back and give much more of his life in pursuit of knowing the Bible and knowing the Jesus that had been mentioned. But, it was too late now and even though he knew it was important to remember, he could not remember what those sermons had tried to tell him. He did remember one line. He didn't remember where it was found, but he remembered what it said, "James 4:14, "... For what is your life? It is even a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." Now, he could understand what it said.

How fleeting his life had passed and how close that hour hand drew to the moment of his death. Once more he concentrated upon the clock on the wall and to his horror he saw that the seconds had kept going, and the minutes had passed while he tried to think of those days in church. Now there were only 5 more minutes to go. That hour hand, that dreaded hour hand was already touching and over-shadowing the hour that would mark his last on earth.

He knew the end was here. His body was no longer movable. His lips were as a heavy weight upon his face that he could not move. It took every ounce of strength he could muster just to open his eyes long enough to see the second hand continuing its steady march to the end of the hour.

Fear began to well up within him, and awful unexplainable dread began to grip his heart. Something terrible, cold and painful, even more painful than the sting of physical pain that the disease had caused him, began to move over him. He wanted to run, he wanted to scream, he wanted to beg for help, he wanted to get away, but he was unable to do any of those things. The feeling hopelessness, fear, dread and pain continued to increase as the seconds ticked away and now there was only a few minutes to go.

The doctors came in to check on him, but they could only wag their heads, shrug their shoulders and turn and walk away. He was far beyond the help of human hands now. They could not stay the hands of that clock anymore than he could. The nurses would only look down in sadness as if to say, "just give up, don't suffer anymore."

They each walked out the door and he was alone again – alone to face the final 2 minutes of his life as he began to feel it slip away. He could feel the cold hands of unseen creatures take hold of his spirit and begin to tug at him with their icy grip... - *Open Source Internet*

FYI - If you wait until the last hour  
getting help with scriptural baptism -  
it's then an impossibility!

**JUDGEMENT PREPARED**  
**FIVE STATES FIVE STEPS**

**Five States of the Soul:**

- **EXEMPTION:**
- **Ezekiel 18: 20; Matthew 18: 1 – 3**
- **CONDEMNATION:**
- **Galatians 3: 22**
- **JUSTIFICATION:**
- **Romans 5: 1, 2; 8: 1, 2**
- **DAMNATION:**
- **Matthew 23: 3; Mark 16: 16**
- **GLORIFICATION:**
- **Romans 8: 17, 30; II Thess. 1: 7 - 12**

**JUDGEMENT PREPARED**  
**FIVE STATES FIVE STEPS**

**Five Steps For Saving:**

- **HEARING:**
- Romans 10: 17; Matthew 7: 24 - 27
- **BELIEVING:**
- Hebrews 11: 6; Mark 16: 15, 16
- **REPENTING:**
- Acts 2: 38; 17: 30; Luke 13: 3
- **CONFESSING:**
- Matthew 10: 32, 33; Acts 8: 36, 37
- **BAPTISM:**
- Romans 6: 3 – 5; Acts 8: 36 - 38

