

## ***The End of Days***

As we draw to the close of the year, our thoughts turn naturally to the swift passing of time. If you are like me, maybe you've spent a few moments mulling your own brief life. Maybe you've even given some thought to the long history of mankind, or contemplated man's final destiny. Have you ever wondered what you will be doing on the last day? No, I don't mean the last day of the year, or even of your life - I'm speaking of the very last day. Here's what Jesus said He will do for you on the last day if you will believe and obey Him: "And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day." --John 6:40

But here's what will be happening to you if you refuse to believe and obey Jesus' words: "He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." -- John 12:48

"We spend our days like bright and shiny new dimes." With each passing day we purchase our last day. Let the buyer beware.

**- by Steve Klein**

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## ***In 2018 . . .***

In 2018 I will "give thanks to the Lord, for He is good; for His lovingkindness is everlasting" (Psalm 118:1).

In 2018 I will "write to you appealing that you contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints" (Jude 3).

In 2018 I will "speak, as it were, the utterances of God" (1 Peter 4:11).

In 2018 I will "preach the gospel, not in cleverness of speech, that the cross of Christ should not be made void" (1 Corinthians 1:17).

In 2018 I will "do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit" (Philippians 2:3).

In 2018 I will "pray without ceasing" (1 Thess. 5:17).

In 2018 I will "be anxious for nothing" (Philippians 4:6).

In 2018 I will "be at peace with all men" (Romans 12:18)

In 2018 I will "rejoice in the Lord always" (Philippians 4:4).

In 2018 "I shall not be afraid" (Psalm 56:11).

In 2018 I will "examine everything carefully; hold fast to that which is good; abstain from every form of evil" (1 Thessalonians 5:21).

In 2018 I will "judge not according to appearances, but judge righteous judgment" (John 7:24).

In 2018 I will "render to all what is due them; tax to whom tax is due; custom to whom custom; fear to whom fear; honor to whom honor" (Romans 13:7).

In 2018 I will "strengthen the hands that are weak and the knees that are feeble" (Hebrews 12:12).

In 2018 I will be "contributing to the needs of the saints, practicing hospitality" (Romans 12:13).

In 2018 I will "deny ungodliness and worldly desires" (Titus 2:12).

In 2018 I will "walk in the light as He Himself is in the light" (1 John 1:7).

In 2018 "I shall pay my vows to the Lord."

- by *Hal Hammons*

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### ***Five Ways to Make a Happy Home***

1. Make God a part of it. After all, He originated it and He deserves a place in it. Remind yourselves - He is there with you at all times. Let the thought of Him influence your treatment of each other and shape your family's priorities.

2. Love your mate. And tell it! It is reassuring to even the very best relationships to know there's love in it. Learn to express your affection. Spend time together and keep your relationship strong.

3. Listen to your children. I mean really listen. Sit down with them periodically and let them say what's on their mind. All of us like to be heard occasionally. Let each child know they are special.

4. Plan at least one meal each day with the whole family. No TV or radio. Give thanks to God, enjoy your meal and talk with each other about your day. Smile and laugh together.

5. Make every day count. Having everybody at home won't last long, and it deserves the best treatment you can give it while it does last. Strive to enjoy every day with your family while you are together. Make memories you can treasure for a lifetime.

- by *Paul Bailey*

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### ***"I Am Resolved . . ."***

"I am resolved no longer to linger. . ." So say the words of the familiar song. It's an important concept, and particularly applicable at this time of year. Consider some that should take the message to heart:

a.. Those who are not yet Christians. If you have never named the name of the Lord Jesus; if you have not yet submitted to His will; if you have yet to obey the simple plan of salvation - you should linger no longer. Please realize that your sins have not been forgiven, you are outside of the fold of safety, you are in jeopardy of being lost eternally. Make the important decision to obey now! You will not regret it, and you cannot afford to delay. "And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord." (Acts 22:16)

b.. Those who are not faithful in the Lord's service. There are too many who once began to serve the Lord, but have since fallen back into unfaithfulness. If you are one of these, we humbly beg you to consider the seriousness of your situation. You know that you need to fulfill the commitment you first made to Him. The danger of dying in your present condition is too great. Don't wait! "The latter end is worse with them than the beginning. For it had been better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than, after they have known it, to turn from the holy commandment delivered unto them. But it is happened unto them according to the true proverb, The dog is turned to his own vomit again; and the sow that was washed to her wallowing in the mire." (2 Pet 2:20-22)

c.. Even those who continue to work faithfully in the kingdom need to spend time in careful self-examination. Is there more you can do? Something you can improve? Things that can be made better? "Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves." (2 Cor. 13:5)

What better time than now? Resolve to linger no longer!

- by *Greg Gwin*