

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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What Are You Waiting For?

Many of us live as if we're waiting for our lives to begin. “When I finish college in four years the doors will really start to open for me; I can then get on with my life.” “When I get that promotion things will really start to happen in my life; I will then do all those things I've been wanting to do.” “When I retire I won't be tied down with work and things will really be different; I'll really be living then.” WHEN. We always seem to be waiting for WHEN to come. Then we learn that WHEN has been here all the time. We just didn't know what to look for!

Fathers are waiting for that day WHEN things become less hectic and demanding so they can spend time with and really get to know their sons. But WHEN never comes and the sons are soon grown and gone, the years of knowing them are past. Mothers are waiting for that day WHEN the pace slows down so they can be more attentive to their daughters. But WHEN never comes, time passes, and the daughters grow up, get married and begin busy lives of their own. Friends intend to enjoy one another WHEN they can find the time. But WHEN never comes, the time is never spent, and the pain of a neglected friend is felt. The following is a poem by Charles Hanson Towne that summarizes these thoughts concerning “WHEN”:

Around the corner I have a friend, in this great city that has no end;
Yet days go by, and weeks rush on, and before I know it a year is gone,
And I never see my friend's face, for life is a swift and terrible race.
He knows I like him just as well as in the days I rang his bell,
We were younger then, and we are busy, tired men;
Tired with playing a foolish game, tired with trying to make a name.
“Tomorrow,” I say, “I will call on Jim,
Just to show that I'm thinking of him.”
But tomorrow comes, and tomorrow goes, and the distance between us
Grows and grows, around the corner, yet miles away.
“Here's a telegram sir, Jim died today.”
And that's what we get, and deserve in the end - -
Around the corner, a vanished friend.

Husbands and wives plan to be more understanding WHEN the pressure from jobs, kids and finances isn't so great. People plan to give up bad habits WHEN they get older. Many plan to take a

more active role in the work of the Lord, WHEN they're finished attending to other pursuits. The intentions are all good, but WHEN are we going to live as if we understand that WHEN is NOW! This is life, this is the time in which the work of living our lives as Christians must be done; not tomorrow, not next week, not next year. Today is the time!



Lulled by Luxury

by Olen Holderby

Prosperity is not, necessarily, a token of God's blessings, nor is it any assurance that we will have plenty in the future. Wealth may be used by Satan to anesthetize a person, making him insensitive to his spiritual needs.

Some time back I read about a religious custom of the Aztecs of Mexico. They used their captives as human sacrifices to their gods. But, before offering them as sacrifices, they often permitted them to live in luxury and splendor for a whole year. At the end of that year, they would be offered as sacrifices. Wasn't much to look forward to, was it?

Many lost souls are in a similar circumstance. They are moving hopelessly toward eternity without Christ. They are lured by material possessions. Because of their great love for THINGS, they are oblivious to the great danger and destruction which is ahead. Satan has used prosperity as a means of lulling them into a fatal acquiescence to his plan. How sad!

Now turn to Luke 12:13-21, and read the story of the "rich fool". He was preparing for the future and he had much goods laid up in anticipation of a grand time. He enlarged his barns; but, alas, his good times came to an end. He had forgotten something that was very vital – he had not made any provision for eternity! How long, O, how long will it take us to learn the lessons stated in verse 15 of this text? "...a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." The wise man holds lightly to this world's goods; and, by faith he grips heavenly treasures, while he is careful not to be lulled into spiritual disaster by the luxuries which this world offers.

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much."

James 5:16