

Volume VIII

May 8, 2016

No. 19

The Final Appointment

W. Frank Walton

"It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

As surely as we are here today, one day we will surely not be here. Have you thought about where you will be one second after death? You probably have known classmates at school who meet a sudden, unexpected death. Yes, death is real. Judgment is certain. Yet, God has the key to our destiny. That can be great news!

My daughter, Rachel, came across this poem, entitled "Death." For an assignment at school, she shared this with her Jr. High class:

What a Great Teacher you are. Yet few of us elect to learn from you, About life. That is the essence of death's teaching, Life. Death is not an elective. One day we all will take the class. The wise students audit the class in early years And find enlightenment. They are prepared when graduation day comes. By Bernie Sigel

"It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart" (Ecclesiastes 7:2). There are some important things we can only learn at a funeral and not at a party. Get serious. This isn't being morbid; it's being real! Sooner or later, we will all die. Therefore, we are not prepared to live fulfilled until we're prepared to die. The most important day in a person's life isn't the day he was born, but it is the day he figures out **why** he was born. We are born a blank slate. What you become is by your choice.

We realize we will face God. Sin separates us from God (Isaiah 59:2). So, our greatest need for the final appointment is to find a Savior who will prepare us with purpose and direction. The Hebrew writer continues: "So Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him" (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus is the key to life and death (John 11:25-26, 14:6). He came from heaven to show us the way out of this world. He alone gives assurance of life beyond the grave, because he

Market Street church of Christ

514 West Market Street P.O. Box 388 Athens, Alabama 35612 Phone (256) 232-1525

Schedule of Services

Sunday

Bible Classes	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday	-
Bible Classes	7:00 p.m.

Elders

Jerry McGlocklin......(256) 232-7620 Kenneth Smith......(256) 777-6737 Bonnie Sutton......(256) 232-2081

Deacons

Marty R. Adams	(256) 233-5147
Tommy Coblentz	
Joel Hamm	
Larry Mitchell	
Russ Wulfekuhl	(256) 683-9396

Evangelist

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MARKET STREET MESSENGER

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David A. Cox, Editor

alone died and came back to tell us about it. This, no psychic nor rock star nor celebrity has ever done.

Will you let Jesus showed you how to live and how to die by faith in Him? "He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him" (Hebrews 5:9). I encourage you to read the Gospel According to John to let the risen Jesus personally prepare you for your final appointment.

-via Silver Street Bulletin; New Albany, Indiana.

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Renewing The Mind

Dan S. Shipley

In New Testament writings sinners are often referred to as men with reprobate minds (Romans 1:28) corrupt minds (1Timothy 6:5), defiled minds (Titus 1:15) and as men that "walk in the vanity of their mind" (Ephesians 4:17). In Colossians 1:21, Paul reminds some that they were in times past "alienated and enemies in your mind." Such minds reflect wrong attitudes. They show dispositions of hostility and antagonism toward God and the things of God. Making the transition from sinner to saint involves changing such minds and altering such attitudes.

The process by which this radical and essential change is effected is called "renewing" (Gr. anakainosis). Romans 12:2 shows it to be the basis for transforming the life: "And be not fashioned according to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind..." So then, meaningful change - change of character, involves more than external reforms and outward acts; it means changing the mind (heart) from whence are the issues of life (Proverbs 4:23, Matthew 15:19,20). It means "the adjustment of the moral and spiritual vision and thinking to the mind of God" (Vine). Essentially, to have this renewed mind is to have the mind of Christ (1Corinthians 2:16; Philippians 2:5). It is to have and be influenced by the Divine viewpoint instead of the human viewpoint; by the spiritual instead of the carnal. Nothing is more essential to or characteristic of the "new man" (Colossians 3:10) and his "newness of life"

(Romans 6:4) than this renewed mind. And of no less importance is the means of its renewal. How does God seek to change the minds of sinful men?

Contrary to many popular concepts, only the gospel of Christ can change and renew the minds of men as God intended. Nothing but God's truth can make believers out of unbelievers. Belief (a function of the mind) comes from hearing Divine testimony (Romans 10:17). This is according to prophecy concerning the new covenant wherein the Lord says "I will put my laws into their mind and on their heart also will I write them" (Hebrews 8:10). The faith by which men are motivated to "transformed" living is derived from the word of God (John 20:30, 31). It is no coincidence that in every case of conversion recorded in the New Testament, what was done was based on something that was learned and believed.

For example, the obedience of the Pentecostians was in response to what they had heard (Acts 2:37); their baptism was in consequence of "receiving his word" (v.41) and their subsequent activities were directed by the "apostles' teaching" (v. 42). In receiving the knowledge of the truth (Hebrews 10:26) these crucifiers of Jesus became informed and enlightened in their understanding; thus, believed and obeyed and received the remission of their sins.

This corresponds exactly to the description of the saved as given by Peter in which he refers to them as those who "have escaped the defilements of the world through the knowledge of the Lord…" (2 Peter 2:20).

Yes, their conversion was an "experience" – but it was an experience with God's truth. And that's the only kind that can renew the mind – and the life. All men need such experiences-for eternity's sake.

-via *Plain Talk;* Burnett, Texas.



MARKET STREET CHURCH OF CHRIST 514 WEST MARKET STREET ATHENS, ALABAMA

"Unto The End..."

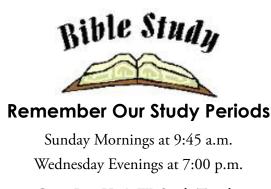
Jim R. Everett

How do you feel about someone who starts a sentence and never...? How about someone who starts a job but never gets around to completing it? Do you feel that you owe a man pay when he does not finish a job for which he has been contracted? Do you expect to win the prize, if you do not cross the finish line? For some reason we understand that truth as it applies to our physical world but seem to think that it will not apply in eternity.

We do not receive the crown of life until the end (cf. 2 Timothy 4:6-8) - "...I have finished the course..." Paul said, "henceforth, there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness." The crown does not adorn the head of the weak, indifferent, worldly minded, negligent, quitters. It is always our prayer, as it was the Hebrew writer's, that "...we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end. That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises" (Hebrews 6:11-12).

Starting is the easy part -- it is the finishing, the grinding it out when it hurts, the bearing up under exasperation, the enduring when it seems there is no end in sight - that is the hard part. Sometimes folks start walking the narrow way but it becomes too difficult and the price is too great to pay. Like the shallow soil, there is no depth and they quickly fall away (Matthew 13:5, 21). If we do not faithfully endure to the end, there is no crown of life.

-via Cedar Park Bulletin; Cedar Park, Texas.



Come Join Us As We Study Together

Promises

Billy Norris

"By which have been given to us exceedly great and procious promises, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature..." (2 Peter 1:4).

The promises of God are exceedly great not only because of the greatness of Him who made them but also because of the greatness of that which he has promised - the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38); His presnce and providential care and oversight (Psalm 34:7; Matthew 28:20); the joys of heaven thourghout eternity (Matthew 25:34-46).

It is to be understood that God's great promises are conditional, based upon obedience to the gospel (Romans 1:16). We do what He tells us to do, and without fail He will keep His promises, for it is impossible for God to lie" (Hebrews 6:18). Further, the promises of God are exceedingly great because of the powerful, motivating influence for good they can have upon our lives. Peter says, "that through these (God's promises) you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust."

-via Gospel Guide; Vol. 26 No. 3 March 1994.

News & Notes

THE SICK: Doris Lovell

Irene Inman Reba Byram Shaun Carruth Linda Jones

Bobbie Adcock Loretta Warner Gilbert Hardy Ann Bush Wayne Gooch

Those Undergoing Treatments or Chronic Illness:

Jeanette Weir Mot Dollar Janice Cagle Gene Carpenter Linda Ordonez Annalynn Tegg Ray Kennedy Elizabeth Howard Phillip Harwell

Ella Melvin Gayle Ball Eli Williams Betty Hamm **Charles Burns** Al Pollard Ava Brooke Campbell Ben Hinkle Una King Currier

Shayna Tollison Staley Jackson Matt Poff

Daniel Ogles Anita Willis

In The Hospital:

Patsy Thomas; Crestwood Hospital, rm. 374 Mitzi Carruth; Huntsville Hospital, rm. 456

Athens Rehabilitation & Senior Care:

Nelva Reed, rm. 61	William Thomas, rm. 70
Judith Groce, rm. 10-B	Dorothy Draper, rm. 104
Mattye Murray, rm. 2	Helen Trousdale, rm. 43
Valeria Dalton, rm. 7	Grady Tomerlin, rm. 18
Terry Camp, rm. 82	Mildred Frantz, rm. 31
Gayle Mills, rm. 15	Evelyn Hogan, rm. 36
Mable Crafts, rm. 98	

Limestone Health Facility:

Jerry Gilbert, rm. 117-B Geneva Davis, rm. 14-E

Limestone Manor:

Mary Ruth Gardner, rm. 86

Shut-In or Away From Home:

Robert & Mot Beasley, at Merrill Gardens, Madison Hazel Brooks, at home Gwen Bullock, at granddaugther's in Huntsville Wynell Casteel, at home Marjorie Dunnavant, at Brookside Farms Carl Hargrave, at granddaughter's home in Hartselle Essie Hardison, at home Ruby Jean Tinnon, at home

OUT OF TOWN: The Bradleys: Steve and Marilyn are in Texas... Tommy Coblentz was out of town this past week.

DRIECTORIES: The directories were mailed to everyone this past week and you should have received a copy. If you did not receive one please let us know, or if you need an additional copy.

WORK GROUPS: Work Group three will be meeting this evening after our evening service. If you are in group three, remember to meet with your group.

NURSING HOME SINGING: Remember the singing at the Athens Rehabilitation and Senior Care on Tuesday afternoon at 5:30.

THE RECORD: Attendance for the week of May 1st Bible Classes.....148 Sunday: W/ 196

		Morning worship 196
		Evening Worship 127
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Remember Our Service This Evening at 5:00.

Men Privileged To Serve:

Sunday, May 8th:

Morning Worship

	Harvey Nixon
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Jordan Lovell
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	
Assisting	
Serving	Marion MitchellStefan Fudge
	Nathaniel Adams Russ Wulfekuhl
Closing Prayer	Bonnie Sutton

Evening Worship

Announcements	Harvey Nixon
	Tony Thomas
	Jason Conn
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	Terry Andrews
Closing Prayer	Larry Mitchell

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 8th:

Ushers	Heath Dollar/Marvin Putman
	Landon Adams

Wednesday, May 11th:

Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Bible Reading	
-	Danny Johnson
Prayer	Śeth Todd
	A. J. Price
Closing Prayer	Joy Warner

Sunday, May 15th:

Morning Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Tommy Burns
Prayer	Steve Usery
Preaching	
Lord's Supper	
Presiding	Keith Hinkle
Assisting	Marcus Morris
Serving A. J. Price .	Bonnie Sutton
Cody Kenn	edy Landon Adams
Closing Prayer	

Evening Worship

Announcements	Kenneth Smith
Song Leader	Joel Hamm
Prayer	Marty Adams
Preaching	David Cox
Lord's Supper	
Closing Prayer	Dan Reed

Other Assignments for Sunday, May 15th:

Ushers	Seth Todd/ Norman Brown
	Terry Andrews