

## **God's Trumpet– 16/10/2016**

***“<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1.Thess.4:13-18)***

Beloved in the Lord,

Time plays a very important role in our lives. I have in my hand a clock. A clock is very handy as it tells us the time at any given moment. The clock is continually ticking. Even as I speak it just keeps on going. Time does not go back, but continues to go forward one second at a time.

Our life, like this clock continues to tick on. From the moment our life began, it has gone forward. We cannot reverse time, nor slow it down. We cannot get back time that has passed. When Billy Graham turned 90, he was asked what surprised him most about life. He replied “the brevity of it.”

We read in the Bible:

***“My days are like a lengthened shadow, And I wither away like grass.” (Ps.102:11)***

***Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow. (Psalm 144:4)***

***“Man, who is born of woman, Is short-lived and full of turmoil.***

***<sup>2</sup> “Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.” (Job.14:1-2)***

***and also the words of Moses:***

***Lord, You have been our dwelling place in all generations.***

***<sup>2</sup> Before the mountains were born***

***Or You gave birth to the earth and the world,***

***Even from everlasting to everlasting, You are God.***

***<sup>3</sup> You turn man back into dust***

***And say, “Return, O children of men.”***

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**<sup>4</sup> For a thousand years in Your sight  
Are like yesterday when it passes by,  
Or as a watch in the night.**

**<sup>5</sup> You have swept them away like a flood, they fall asleep;  
In the morning they are like grass which sprouts anew.**

**<sup>6</sup> In the morning it flourishes and sprouts anew;  
Toward evening it fades and withers away. (Ps.90:1-6)**

There are also many other passages I could quote, but these all testify to the brevity of life and how quickly it passes. From birth to the grave time is short. This could be a depressing thought if the grave was the terminus point. Praise God it isn't. Death is not the end of our life. At death only the body dies, our soul and spirit are eternal. On God's appointed day, His trumpet will sound and we will receive a new resurrected body.

It is true that the clock ticks on, but that means that with every minute we are closer to the day the trumpet will sound. That mighty trumpet of God will usher in a new life. What a day that will be. That will be day as has never been, nor will ever be again. For those who are in Christ, this day will be a great day of victory. Death will be totally defeated. We read again how Paul describes it:

***"For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."* (1.Thes.14:16-17)**

On God's appointed day, He will turn to Jesus and say: "Go and get my children." On that day the Archangel will shout and the trumpet of God will sound and all the graves of Christians will be opened and the dead in Christ will rise. Trumpets are used to gather the troops together. On that day when God's trumpet sounds there will be a great gathering of all of God's people. The souls of those who died in Christ will return to the earth to be reunited with a resurrected body and then caught up again to Heaven in their new state. Those who are alive at the time and believe in Jesus will experience death and resurrection in the twinkling of an eye. They too will be caught up to meet with the Lord in the air and together we will be forever in the Father's presence.

Please understand this is no fantasy or manmade story or wild imagination. This is God's Word. This is our future as Christians. Paul tells us that he writes on God's authority. **<sup>15</sup> For this we say to you by the word of the Lord." (vs.15)**

This is not the thoughts of man but The Word of the Lord! This is the reason Jesus came into the world in the first place. He came to pay the sin debt of mankind so that we could spend eternity with Him in His Kingdom. Jesus taught:

***"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.<sup>17</sup> For God did not send the Son into the world to***

***judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.<sup>18</sup> He who believes in Him is not judged; he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.” (John 3:16-18)***

When we believe on Jesus Christ, we have eternal life. When God’s trumpet will sound the dead in Christ will rise. Only those who believed in Jesus will hear the trumpet and rise. We read in Revelation:

***“Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power...” (Rev.20:6a)***

It is vital that we understand that only those who believe in Jesus are blessed. Those who die without Christ, will also experience a resurrection, but that will be to face the second death, which is eternal separation from God.

As we sit in this cemetery today, we need to answer the question Jesus asked Martha standing at the tomb of her brother Lazarus – “Do you believe?” If you do, then good. Don’t worry about the clock ticking on. Don’t be depressed that you are getting older, because you will soon hear the trumpet of God and a new life will begin. A glorious and blessed life. Be strong and firm in your faith. Don’t waver. God loves you and you will spend eternity with Him.

If, however, you do not believe, then today you need to change that. You don’t want to miss the opportunity, because tomorrow may be too late. There is no second chance after death. God loves you. Understand that. Jesus loves you. He has a place for you, but you must receive Him in faith. You need to acknowledge, confess and repent of your sin and receive His forgiveness. There is no other road to heaven. Never has been and never will be.

Paul closes our passage with an encouragement:

***“Therefore comfort one another with these words.”***

I am encouraged by today’s passage, and I hope you are too. The day is fast approaching when this earthly life will end and a new life will begin. We will leave this world of trouble and sorrow behind and face a new world that is joy unspeakable and full of glory. There will be no more clocks for time will no longer be a factor.

Come, Lord Jesus.!

Amen

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***