

The Old Paths

Volume 21, Issue 5

March 30, 2014

“You Only Get One Chance ...”

Jarrod Jacobs

“One” is a very interesting word. This word stands for unity, and wholeness. It tells us how many churches Christ established (Matt. 16:18). “One” is what Christ prayed that His disciples would be (Jn. 17:21). It also represents the number of times we get to live in this world! We have one chance to live and no guarantee as to how long that life will last, so we need to make the best of this opportunity.

The apostle Paul understood this fact and told the Corinthians, “...behold, now is the favorable time; behold, now is the day of salvation” (II Cor. 6:2). Jesus Himself understood that when He walked upon this earth, He only had one chance at it. So, we find Him being very busy and “about (His) Father’s business” from an early age (Lk. 2:49). In fact, while He was on earth, it was said that, “there are also many other things that Jesus did. Were every one of them to be written, I suppose that the world itself could not contain the books that would be written” (Jn. 21:25). Jesus accepted what many people today do not, and that is that our time is fleeting upon this earth (Jn. 9:4; Jas. 4:14). Many people act as if they are going to live forever upon this earth. This is a mistake! Our time on earth is limited, so we need to make the best use of it we can.

It bothers me when I hear folks talking about “wasting

time,” or “killing time.” I realize these are expressions, and I don’t consider the wording as “sin,” but I wonder if we realize what we are saying. Our life on earth is temporary. The longer we live, the closer we get to its end. Since this is the case, it seems to me that we would be trying to do as the Ephesian letter instructs and “redeem the time” (i.e., use our time wisely and properly) rather than trying to waste, or kill, or otherwise mutilate the time we have left on this earth! The passage of time is deceitful in a way, for as it passes, there is no pain or any other similar notification associated with it. Time passes by and we often are blissfully unaware. We can be anywhere on earth or in space, and time continues to pass. No force on earth can stop time from passing, so we need to make the best of what we have left!

What do we have to do on earth that is so important? Actually, there are many important responsibilities we must accept. If we neglect or shirk our responsibilities, then we will answer to God for that on the day of Judgment (II Cor. 5:10).

You Only Have One Chance To Live Your Life.

Think about your age. Do you realize that you only get to be your age ONCE? You only get to live March 30, 2014 one time! If the Lord wills that we live tomorrow, then this day is gone forever and

will never come back, just like every other day, month, and year previous to today. If He does not will that this world stands to see another sunrise, what have we given in exchange for this day?

James noted, “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town, and spend a year there and trade and make a profit’ — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time, and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we will live, and do this or that’” (Jas. 4:13-15). Think about this passage! Just as the mist disappears off the lake, or the steam from a pot dissipates into the room, so also one’s life vanishes quickly after being born. Knowing this fact, what will we do to make sure our lives have meaning and purpose?

Let us think seriously and soberly about this day and every day and make sure the things that we do are done to the glory of God (Col. 3:23; I Cor. 10:31).

You Only Have One Chance To Raise Your Children.

Just as parents’ lives pass quickly, so also our children are quickly passing through this life. Though we wish they would stay the same age, we know our children will not stay their current age all their lives. Some parents may “think” their children are still children, and yes some adults still act like children, but time continues to move along, and that little 5 year-old swiftly turns 25, 35, 45, 55, etc.!

God has placed a great responsibility upon parents to make sure and teach

their children the Lord's way. This was so in Old Testament days (Deut. 6:6-9) and continues today (Eph. 6:4). Parents need to realize that there is a precious soul that has been given to them for a little while, and that this person is aging just as the parents are (Jas. 4:14). If parents shirk their responsibilities in teaching and training, then who, pray tell, will teach these precious ones?

If I shirk my responsibility, I need to know that Satan is more than willing to teach my children (I Pet. 5:8)! He would be happy to get a hold of them and keep them for his own. I only get one chance to bring my children up right, and to teach them, not only the facts concerning living on earth, but more importantly, the facts about how to get to Heaven (Mk. 16:16)! There is only one opportunity while they are in my home and under my roof to teach them about the Lord, about His sacrifice (Jn. 3:16), about God's love (Rom. 5:8), and about my being willing to sacrifice and live for Him in order to go to Heaven (Rom. 12:1-2)!

The question is not, "Who will teach my children?" As we noted, Satan is ready to do it! The question is, "Will I be the one teaching my children the truth?" The Bible tells parents to do this (Eph. 6:4). Will we accept our God-given duties, or will we shirk our responsibilities? We can only answer this for ourselves, but rest assured that we will only get this chance once in their lives; and it will not come our way again!

You Only Have One Chance To Be Saved.

While we recognize that some people spend their lives and talents on sinful and wicked deeds, we also recognize that there are

people who are trying their best to improve things on this earth. It is to these folks we speak at this point. Yes, some folks pour their lives into education, or into architecture. Some people will spend their lives in service to others. Many are involved in noble pursuits on this earth. Yet, for the good these things can do, all of these things are meaningless if our soul is not right with God. Remember, Jesus asked the question, "For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and forfeits his soul? Or what shall a man give in return for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26).

Knowing that our time on earth is fleeting, today may very well be your last chance to make your life right with God! When we think about it, even if we are allowed to live our "threescore years and ten, or ... fourscore years" (Ps. 90:10), we really have a "narrow window" of opportunity to make our lives right with God. This is because for the first few years of life, we are too young to believe and be baptized (Mk. 16:16). Babies cannot make conscious decisions about their faith; nor have they sinned (Ezek. 18:4, 20)! Therefore, they are not subject to the gospel message. Assuming that one lives to an "old age", we see that in one's old age, he/she may

not be mentally capable of making the conscious decision to believe in Christ, and then to be baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). Yet, if some tragedy occurs while in our youth and our opportunity to obey God is taken away, (through death or injury) then we have even less time than others to believe on Christ, repent of our sins, and be baptized (Mk. 16:16; Acts 2:38). Therefore, our "window of opportunity" for salvation in Christ is narrow, and we must make the right decision before it is too late! Today may very well be our "last chance"!

Conclusion

Sometimes the games we play allow for "do-overs," but life does not! Let us not shirk our responsibilities, or waste our lives in vain efforts of this life. Let us submit our wills to God's will and let us be found living a faithful life to God, (I Cor. 15:58) and teaching our children this way so long as we live!

It is not our job to make the message acceptable, but to make it available not to make them like it, but to be sure that they get it.
- Anon.

Visit Our Facebook Page:
www.facebook.com/CaneyvillechurchOfChrist



I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!
Come and meet with the church of Christ in Caneyville.
Location: 103 N. Main Street Caneyville, KY

Meeting Times:

- Sunday Bible Study - - - - - 10:00 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 10:45 a.m.
- Sunday Worship - - - - - 5:00 p.m.
- Wednesday Bible Study - - - - - 7:00 p.m.

Watch:

"The Ancient Landmark" Television Show airs on You Tube (www.youtube.com/TheOldPaths1994) and Insight Cable, channel 6

Listen:

"The Ancient Landmark" Radio program airs on WXMZ, 99.9 FM (10:30-11:00 am) and WLBQ 1570 AM (8:30-9:00 am) Monday-

Friday. It is also broadcast online at: thez999.com and beechtreeneews.com
Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs Phone: (270) 589-4167