

THE BIBLE VIEW

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Not Much Remained

Bill Brinkworth

"Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:14

After the four-hour labor of three workers, a large area in a wooded area was cleared of trees and brush. All were carried to one place. The result was a pile 18 feet in diameter and seven feet tall. It was a huge heap of wood.

Although I originally intended to burn the heap, I deemed it too large to incinerate, as ashes and sparks could start a fire in the nearby forest. Instead, I ran the cut wood through my small wood chipper.

The job was massive and took three days. After the hard work was complete, the remaining pile of chips was only four feet long and three foot high. Hundreds of feet of trees and brush, when ground up, resulted in only a small pile of ¾" wood chips. There was not much to show for the tree's growth and our labor.

Several years previously, I had cleared another wooded area. The resulting pile of small trees and brush was much smaller, about eight feet by five foot tall. It was burnt and after the fire was out and the ashes cooled there was barely enough of the plant remains to fill a five-gallon bucket.

One day, even this world will have little to show for all the building, civilizations, technology, lives, history, and accomplishments. After the rapture, Tribulation (as recorded in The Revelation) and the 1,000-year millennial reign of Christ the Earth will be "passed away" (II Peter 3:10, Mat. 24:35, Isaiah 65:17, Dan. 2:44). Little will remain of the place humans inhabited for thousands of years. The elegant buildings, towering skyscrapers, all that man had built, his technology, and all that remains on the Earth at that time will be replaced by a new Earth that God will create. It will be an Earth without the curse of sin. All that man valued will all be gone. There will be little to show for mankind's efforts.

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea." Rev 21:1 Also: Isaiah 65:17, I John 2:17.

All through our lives we have eaten much, earned much, accomplished much, been to many places, experienced much, seen wonderful scenes and things, met and talked to thousands of people, and made some difference in this world. However, when our life is over, like the

remnants of the trees and saplings and eventually the Earth, there will not be much left to show for our lives and efforts, just some bones in a casket or a small pile of dust.

Depressing, but a reality that little of man's efforts will remain to show of his existence. However, there can be a glorious eternal future for all. Those that are made "righteous" by believing and trusting Christ's sacrificial death as payment for their sins, can have a never-ending (eternal) life (John 3:16, 36, John 4:14, John 5:24, John 6:40,).

"And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal." Mat. 25:46

What a waste of life to not invest one's eternal soul in what will last (John 6:27). The unsaved have not put any faith or trust in God's way of Heaven and will be terrified by what awaits them — forever. However, many that are saved that will go to Heaven have not invested their time on Earth wisely. They have not labored to store up "treasures in Heaven" (Mat. 6:20). They have frivolously spent their opportunity in this life on vain priorities (Gal. 6:8) that will not matter in their eternal future.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also." Mat. 6:19-21

Christian, you have time here on Earth to do as the Lord commands. You should be laying up treasures for your future. Obey the Bible and do for the Lord what He allows you to do for Him. Do not arrive in an eternal Paradise and find that you have not done anything or of little value for your eternity.

"In this world, it is not what we take up, but what we give up, that makes us rich."

— Beecher

The Musings of a Dollar

Author Unknown

If money could talk, it would make one of these three speeches:

- It may say, "Hold me, and I will dry out the foundations of sympathy and benevolence in your soul and leave you barren and destitute. Grasp me tightly, and I will change your eyes that they will care to look upon nothing that does not contain my image, and so transform your ears that my soft metallic ring will sound louder to them than the cries of widows and orphans and the wail of perishing multitudes. Keep me, clutch me, and I will destroy your sympathy for others, your respect for the right, and your love and reverence for God."
- Or it may say, "Spend me for self-indulgence, and I will make your soul fat and indifferent to all except your own pleasure. I will become your master, and you will think that I only am of importance and powerful."
- Or it may whisper, "Give me away for the benefit of others, and I will return in streams of spiritual revenue to your soul. I will bless the one that received and the one that gives me away. I will supply food for the hungry, raiment for the naked, medicine for the sick, and send the Gospel to the needy. At the same time, I will secure joy and peace for the soul that uses me for others' needs."

Money

Author Unknown

Dug from the mountainside
Or washed from the glen,
Servant am I or master of men?
Earn me, I bless you.
Steal me, I curse you.
Grasp me and hold me,
A fiend shall possess you.
Lie for me, die for me,
Covet me, take me —
Friend or foe,
I'm just what you make me.

“I finally figured out why people get nervous and upset when the love of money is preached. The preacher is criticizing and devaluing their little “god”, and they don’t like their religion belittled.” — B. B.

Affluence Now, Bankruptcy Hereafter

Author Unknown

A certain tribe in Africa elected a new king every seven years, as it invariably killed its old king at the end of that time. For seven years, the member of the tribe enjoyed this high honor and was provided with every luxury known to the savage life. During those years, his authority was absolute, even to the power of life and death. For seven years he ruled, was honored, and gifted with possessions, but at the end of the period, he died.

Every member of the tribe was aware of his fate, for it was a custom of long standing; but there was never an applicant lacking for the post. For seven years of luxury and power, men were willing to sacrifice the remainder of their life.

They may have been ignorant pagans, yet in the proudest civilization of our day, men and women of intelligence and leadership are now making the same choice between things now and spiritual bankruptcy in the hereafter. Scores are willing to be bankrupt through eternity if they may only have their money now.

Both Jewels and Life Lost

Walter Knight

Among the discoveries in the ruins of Pompeii was a woman in the act of gathering in her apron rings, bracelets, and other valuable articles of jewelry. Some wealthy persons, aware of the coming volcanic destruction fled, leaving those things behind, as they deemed them worthless in comparison with their lives. However, that woman, hoping to save both, delayed the time of her flight and was overwhelmed in the holocaust! Both “her” jewels and life were lost.

“Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the LORD of hosts. But ye said, Wherein shall we return? Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In tithes and offerings. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation.”

— Malachi 3:7-9.

Applegate’s Cow

Author Unknown

When it comes to the matter of giving, too many are like farmer Applegate’s cow.

A summer boarder at the Applegate’s farm asked, “How much milk does that cow give?”

“Wal,” replied farmer Applegate, “ef ya mean by voluntary contribooshun, she don’t give none. But ef ye kin get her cornered, so’s she can’t kick none to hurt, an able-bodied man kin take away about ‘leven quarts a day from her.”

“You do not have to be rich to be generous. If one has the spirit of true generosity, a pauper can give like a prince.” — Wells