

dantly.” (John 10:10). The Apostle Paul said of his own life, “I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord (Jesus), the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing.” (1 Timothy 4:7-8).

One day Heaven will have a great celebration, and you as a born again believer will hear Jesus say to you, “Well, done, good and faithful servant! Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy Lord!” (Matthew 25:23). Love the Christian life. Tell others of your new life in Jesus. Now go and really live abundantly, one day at a time, and magnify the Lord Jesus and His precious Blood by singing with joy the chorus of an old song:

Happy day, happy day, When Jesus washed my sins away!

He taught me how to watch and pray and live rejoicing every day;

Happy day, happy day, When Jesus washed my sins away!



Joe M. Ragland

The truths in this tract were compiled and published by Joe M. Ragland, J.D., LL.M., Personal Injury Attorney and former law professor at Mississippi College School of Law. Professor Ragland teaches, “The greatest personal injury a person could ever receive is the loss of his or her own soul.”

Offices located at 828 North State Street, Jackson, Mississippi 39202, U. S. A. Phone (601) 969-5050. email joeragland@raglandministries.org

He cares about you and wants to see you in Heaven. He prays God will use the remainder of your life on earth for His glory and that God will richly bless you as you celebrate your salvation and look for Jesus’ appearance! Maranatha!

www.raglandministries.org

T.G.A.B.T.G.

Jesus Is Coming Sooner Than You Think!



By: Joe M. Ragland, J.D., LL.M.
Personal Injury Attorney
828 North State Street
Jackson, Mississippi 39202, USA
(601) 969-5050

E-mail: joeragland@raglandministries.org
Former Law Professor
Mississippi College School of Law

Jesus Is Coming Sooner Than You Think!

“Then I saw a great white throne The dead were judged according to what they had done If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Revelation 20:11-12, 15).

Jesus warned, “For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” (Matthew 7:13-14).

All prophecy points to the second coming of Jesus Christ and to perilous times coming on the earth. “Jesus Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time ... to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him.” (Hebrews 9:28). Jesus is coming soon, and He wants you to make Him Lord of all and be ready for His appearance.

Consider this little booklet as your “Wake-Up Call!” Salvation is not religion or anything you may do to save yourself. Jesus warned the religious, “Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name have cast out devils and in thy name done many wonderful works? And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.” (Matthew 22:23). Jesus is dreading that day when He will have to tell a sea of people to depart from Him as He never knew them. The Father God Himself will truly have to “wipe away every tear” (Revelation 21:4) as we witness the final sentence of damnation to many who rejected while on earth such a great offer of salvation.

Many people selfishly live for pleasure and are not heavenly-minded. They could not be happy if they were allowed to enter heaven, for they love to practice the deeds of darkness and further harden their hearts each time they choose to reject the free gift of salvation. “Today, if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.” (Hebrews 4:7). Jesus explained, “Behold, I am coming soon! ...Blessed are those who wash their robes, that they have the right to the tree of life and may go through the gates into the city. Outside are the dogs, those who practice magic arts, the sexually immoral, the murderers,

the idolaters and everyone who loves and practices falsehood. ...Whoever is thirsty, let him come; and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.” (Revelation: 22:12, 14, 15, 17).

Death may catch up with you. Death is a trip to eternity. Where will you spend it? It was once estimated that approximately 2,000 people were dying each minute in the earth, and at that time only around 50 were born again. No one can tell how soon she or he may be at the gates of death. All people who reject God’s free gift of His only begotten Son (John 3:16) shall be turned into hell. Perishing in hell is the end of a Christless life. When the trumpet blows, will you be among the many caught up in the air with Jesus and be taken to Heaven, or will you be left behind?

• —————→
The dot above stands for your whole life on earth. Imagine the line as unending, representing your life after death forever in eternity. What happens inside the dot determines your future on the line. Would you say you are living for the line or for the dot?

Our Creator God loves you and gave you a free choice. He wants you to choose to love and obey Him. Jesus shed His life’s Blood for your sins if you will choose to receive Him as your Savior. “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23). “Jesus suffered and died on the cross of Calvary that you might have eternal life.” (John 10:28). Jesus Christ is the only one who had no sin, and He died for your sins and rose again from the dead the third day. God has done everything that can be done to save you! Now the decision to accept or reject this free gift is yours. Do you say “yes” or do you say “no?” Only a fool would say, “no.” “The fool says in his heart, ‘There is no God.’” (Psalm 14:1). “It is appointed unto man once to die, and after that to face judgment.” (Hebrews 9:27).

To approach God you must have a mediator (an advocate) who steps in between a Holy God and you who have sinned. “Jesus is the mediator of the new testament.” (Hebrews 9:15). God loves you and today offers you the free gift of salvation. “Now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2). No one else is going to believe the Word of God for you. You and you alone are responsible for

choosing what you will do with Jesus, the Son of God. You are the one who must say “no” to the devil, the world, and the impulses of the flesh, and say “yes, I receive Jesus as Savior and I will live for Him.” Jesus paid the price that God required for man’s sin. The price was His Blood, for without blood there is no remission of sin. (Hebrews 9:22). Without Jesus the richest man is poor, and with Jesus the poorest man is rich. There is room at the cross for you.

Jesus is the only way to heaven. “Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12). “Jesus appeared so that He might take away sins.” (1 John 3:5). Jesus won the victory over the devil and sin on the cross when He declared, “It is finished.” (John 19:30). “And having disarmed the powers and authorities (of darkness), Jesus made a public spectacle of them, triumphing over them by the cross.” (Colossians 2:15). “Jesus offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down on the right hand of God ... until His enemies be made His footstool.” (Hebrews 10:12-13). “It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession (prayer) for us.” (Romans 8:34). “And their sins and iniquities will I remember no more.” (Hebrews 10:17).

Now believe and accept the shed Blood of Jesus and His death on the cross as payment-in-full for you to join the celebrating company of the saved and be in right standing with God. Now take Jesus as your Savior and Lord! “For by grace are ye saved through faith, and not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.” (Ephesians 2:8, 9). “I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness (forgiveness of sins) could be gained through the law (works), Christ died for nothing.” (Galatians 2:21).

Salvation is found in a Person, Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Jesus said, “Except a man be born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.” (John 3:3). A reborn person is the crowning work of Jesus. “Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners.” (1 Timothy 1:15). “For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” (Romans 3:23). “Except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.” (Luke 13:3).

You must come to Jesus Christ just as you are, a poor lost sinner. Jesus promised, “Him that cometh to me I will in no wise [not for anything he has done] cast him out.” (John 6:37). “If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.” (Romans 10:9).

If you have never received Jesus as your Savior and Lord, or if you doubt that you have ever been born again, you must settle this issue, once and for all, before your Creator. This moment, choose Jesus and pray, confessing the following, so that you can hear yourself speaking:

“Dear God in Heaven, I come to You just as I am in the mighty and holy Name of Jesus. I have sinned against Heaven and You. I know I am a sinner. I believe with all my heart that Jesus Christ is Your Son and that You raised Him from the dead. I renounce sin and the past and I forgive all who have wronged me. I am sorry for my sins and I ask you to forgive me of my sins. I repent of my sins and turn from evil. I accept Your Son’s dying on a cross, shedding His Blood as full payment for my sins and I receive Jesus by faith into my heart as my Savior and Lord. From this moment forward, I belong to Jesus and will follow Him the rest of my life. I will not be ashamed of Jesus, and I will confess Him before men. Thank you, Jesus, for being real in my life and for giving me the Holy Spirit as You promised. I come to you, Jesus, and make You Lord over all aspects of my life. I believe right now that I am a Christian and that the Holy Spirit has joined with my human spirit, and I am born again. I am going to start serving and obeying Jesus. Jesus, take all of me. Now Jesus is my Savior and Lord; God is my Heavenly Father; and the Holy Spirit is my comforter. I no longer belong to the devil; I belong to Jesus. All my sins are forgiven. I am washed in Jesus’ Blood. I believe that Jesus is coming back for me, and I will be ready for His appearance. Thank You, Heavenly Father, for giving Your Son for me that I might have abundant, eternal life. I’ve just been saved. I am born again! In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”

Date _____ Time _____

The greatest miracle is salvation! The marvelous mystery of your “new birth” is “Christ in you the hope of glory.” (Colossians 1:26). As a born again believer, your spirit is completely reborn, and you were adopted into the family of God. God is now your Father, and Jesus is your elder brother. “Since you (born again believer) are a son, God has made you also an heir (with Jesus).” (Galatians 4:7).

The Apostle Paul prayed for the born again Saints, “May your whole spirit, soul (mind, emotion, will), and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.” (1 Thessalonians 5:23). Now it is your responsibility to renew your mind with the Word of God and to take control of your body. “Like newborn babes, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, now that you have tasted that the Lord is good.” (1 Peter 2:2-3). It is essential that you immediately affiliate and commit to regular attendance with a local church where Jesus is glorified and the Word of God is proclaimed with authority and power. “Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together” (Hebrews 10:25). Also, you should daily read the Bible, pray to Father God in the Name of Jesus (John 16:23), and be baptized in water according to the command of Jesus, signifying resignation of your old life and embracing of the new. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 6:4).

Although you are born again, you are not immune from making mistakes. Should you fail, immediately ask forgiveness from your Heavenly Father in the name of Jesus, telling Him that you repent, knowing that God is faithful according to His Word “to cleanse you” (1 John 1:9) and erase from His remembrance all of your wrongdoing. Always forgive yourself, go on your way rejoicing, and know that you are growing as a new born child in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ. Make much of the Blood of Jesus. Honor the Blood. Be a child of God who practices pleading the Blood of the Lord Jesus Christ. “They (born again Saints) overcame him (devil) by the Blood of the Lamb (Jesus), and by the word of their testimony” (Revelation 12:11). Plead Jesus Blood anywhere there is any kind of satanic effort to thwart the complete will of God in your life. “And to Jesus the

mediator of the new covenant, and to the Blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things” (Hebrews 12:24). Praise the Lord Jesus that His Blood speaks on our behalf.

“If we walk in the light (love of God), as He (Jesus) is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the Blood of Jesus purifies us from all sin.” (1 John 1:7). The Father God sees the Blood of Jesus and we are holy in His eyes. “Without holiness no one will see the Lord.” (Hebrews 12:14). “In view of God’s mercy, offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God – this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind.” (Romans 12:1-2). When the devil accuses you of confessed and forgiven sins, don’t plead guilty; plead the Blood of Jesus. Don’t confess negative things over yourself, but speak the Word of God and say such things as, “I can do all things through Christ. Greater is He that is in me than he that is in the world. If God be for me, who can be against me? Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever. Christ in me, the hope of glory. My past is under the Blood of Jesus. I’m so happy for this new day! Thank you Father, for Your great plan of salvation. I love, trust, and adore You, Jesus. Jesus, you are Lord of all. Your Blood is more than enough. I am thankful that every drop of Your Blood was shed for me! I plead the Blood over all that is mine and over all the power of the enemy coming against my life. My life is a life of joy, and every day is a day of heaven on earth. I rejoice in the Lord always. I always triumph in Christ Jesus. Jesus has set me free. Jesus’ yoke is easy and His burden is light. I have favor with God and man. No good thing will God withhold from me. God is for me, and He is blessing me and has given me a wonderful future. Jesus, my Lord and Savior, You are worthy of all my love.”

“Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9). Jesus promised, “And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.” (John 8:32), and “I have come that they (born again believers) may have life, and have it more abundantly.” (John 1:10).