

A Bold and Sobering Prayer

Psalm 39:4 contains a bold and sobering prayer that I need to hear and adopt as my own.

“O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!” (Psalm 39:4)

Whatever you’re doing, could I encourage you to slow down and reflect on that God-breathed sentence?

“**LORD, make me.**” This is the essence of the life shaped by God. He is our Father; we are his children. He is our potter; we are the clay. We are all the work of his hand, and the potter has every right over the clay. Our prayer, therefore, should always be, “Shape me as it seems good to you to do.”

“**LORD, make me know my end.**” My time on this earth *will* come to an end. While the masses do everything in their power to fill their time and minds to the point of dwelling on *anything other than* “the end” of all things, God’s children know better. We’ve been taught better, and so we pray better. “I want to live with wisdom and I trust you above all others. And so, whatever you must do, make me know my end.”

“**LORD, make me know what is the measure of my days.**” Even in this one psalm, the Spirit of God seeks to shape our perspective. My days? They are “a few hand-breadths ... Surely all mankind stands as a mere breath!” (39:5). My days on this earth are measured. They have a beginning and they have an end. A year marked my birth (1978, in my case) and a year will mark my death. What really matters is what I choose to do with the dash in the middle of those years.

“**LORD, let me know how fleeting I am!**” If all we have is Psalm 39:4, this verse, and the thought behind it, and this blog post about it are ... depressing. But there’s more to Psalm 39 than the fourth verse.

“And now, O Lord, for what do I wait? My hope is in you.” (Psalm 39:7)

Here’s the bottom line.

Whether I choose to acknowledge God or not, my time on this earth *will* come to an end. Even if I’m 100% effective at never thinking about that end, my days *are* measured. I *am* fleeting.

God is not.

Living hope is available *in* him. Abundant life is a reality *in* him. Indestructible joy is possible *in* him.

Why then would I build my hope on anything or anyone else?

“O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!” (Psa 39:4)

...because if I built my life on him, *when* (not *if*) my time on earth has come to an end, I will eagerly depart to eternally be with the One who has been my hope and life and joy all along.

(Jason Hardin...from his blog post @ ingodsimage.com)

*“And he said
unto them, Go ye
into all the
world, and
preach the
gospel to every
creature.”*

Mark 16:15

Thank you for taking the time to read this edition of “The Paden City Messenger.” This publication is brought to you by the members of the Paden City Church of Christ in an effort to share the great news of salvation in Jesus Christ. The message of the Gospel has the ability to impact our lives in ways that no other message can. We hope that this publication will help in your study of God’s Word.

I Love You

Quick question. Did you start by reading this article or did you fall prey to the temptation to skip over to the other one first? I even placed this portion at the left of the page to give it a slight advantage in this experiment. If you started here because of the topic good for you. The Bible repeatedly values the benefits that love can bring to our lives. From God's love provided in salvation (John 3:16) to our love for one another (John 15:12), we are continually strengthened by the love we share. If you read the article to the right first, don't be too hard on yourself. Unfortunately, we've been conditioned to react to negative information. Think about the last time you had the news on but weren't really paying attention. Your mind may have glossed over several positive news stories but then the words, "there has been another shooting" are heard and we immediately stop what we are doing to investigate further. I'm not implying that it is wrong to be concerned over the tragedies

some may be facing, I'm simply suggesting that we make a mistake if we allow ourselves to be conditioned to



only react to negative things. We may be missing out on some wonderful blessings that God is intending for us. Especially if we miss the love of Christ expressed in the Gospel. So be well informed. Be saddened over what sin has brought into existence and pray for those who are hurting because of it. But don't forget the good that exists as well. Maybe even spend a little more time bringing love to a world that so desperately needs it.

I Hate You

If you read the article to the left first then you probably know where this segment is going. If you started with this article stay with me for a moment. (I know...now you're tempted to jump straight to the article on the left but hang on for one more minute) Ask yourself this question. Why did I jump straight to the negative article? I don't ask that in



a critical way but more in a thoughtful way. Maybe sheer curiosity as to what I might say about such a harsh title. Is it also possible

that I have become conditioned to examine negative thoughts first? Hate is a strong word generally reserved for sinful things within Scripture. (Note: Proverb 6 & 8) Certainly we need to be warned of those things and quite frankly grow a disdain for the things that God says are appalling. Yet, we must be cautious not to allow the misguided hate and anger that so permeates our society to overwhelm us. Recognize the bad as that which is to be avoided and then focus our minds on the God who "is love" (1 John 4:8). Take some time to condition ourselves to look for the good in life because it is not generally promoted in the same way that evil is promoted. Now go take a look at the contrasting article on "I Love You."

(That is if you haven't yet)



Why I Believe Baptism is Important

The subject of baptism has generated numerous religious debates over the ages. Biblical scholars and Bible students have discussed, debated, and studied various questions surrounding the subject. Who is subject to baptism? What is the mode of baptism? Does baptism occur before or after one is saved? Is baptism important to our salvation? All of these questions have generated a multitude of answers that have often left the seeker confused, frustrated, and at times disinterested in spiritual things. If you will allow me, I'd like to focus on the last of those questions. Why do I believe baptism is important to our salvation? If you find the following conclusions consistent with Scripture, I encourage you to embrace these principles as it relates to your own salvation.

Consider the following...

In what is often considered "the great commission", Jesus expressly states the importance of baptism. *"Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:"* (Matthew 28:19) *"He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be condemned."* (Mark 16:16) I believe it reasonable to conclude that if Jesus chose to reference baptism in His parting words to His disciples, He felt the subject was important?

When Peter addressed those who had sent Jesus to the cross he made this statement when they sought remedy. *"then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins..."* (Acts 2:38) Notice Peter's teaching was universal to all of them. After challenging them to recognize they had crucified the Son of God they were moved to find an answer to what they had done. Peter provides that answer when he says "repent and be baptized."

When Philip preached in Samaria, many were baptized as a result of his work. (Acts 8:12) His preaching held consistent when he shared the Gospel with the Ethiopian Eunuch. After preaching Jesus to the Eunuch notice the question the Eunuch asks. *"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized?"* (Acts 8:36) Would you consider it a fair conclusion that Philip believed that baptism was important?



When Ananias challenged Saul of Tarsus (who ultimately becomes the apostle Paul) to seek the washing of his sins notice what he said. *"And now why tarriest thou? arise, and be baptized, and wash away thy sins, calling on the name of the Lord."* (Acts 22:16) When Saul, who considered himself the "chiefest of sinners", needed an answer to his sins, baptism was a part of that answer.

Conclusion...

Baptism is not the only thing important to our salvation. The Bible illustrates many things that God desires from those who desire to be His children. I recognize that this article does not explore every question that surrounds the subject of baptism. Maybe in the future we will examine other questions. My hope is that by examining the above passages we can see a clear importance that is placed on the subject of baptism. The fact that baptism is a repeated theme within the message of the Gospel serves as sufficient evidence that baptism is important and without hesitation I simply say, "I believe that baptism is important to our salvation!"



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"BUY THE TRUTH"

One thing that is absolutely indispensable to the practice of pure religion is truth. "Buy the truth, and sell it not; also wisdom, and instruction, and understanding." (Prov. 23:23).

Whatever truth may cost (time, money, lands, houses, or physical suffering), it is worth the price; and once obtained, it must not be sold at any price. It matters little what we think, feel, imagine, suppose, or would like to believe; the truth is what counts. Jesus said, "If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." (John 8:31-32). Apollos was an eloquent man, mighty in the Scriptures, fervent in spirit, bold, convincing, but he lacked the one thing which all must have to be successful in preaching - the whole truth. (Acts 18:24-28). Eloquence is not necessary if one has the truth; other things may be helpful, but are not essential.

To disregard, neglect, reject, or deny the truth is to dispense with the indispensable.

(Author Unknown)

PADEN CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Schedule of Services:

Sunday Bible Study @ 9:30am

Sunday Worship @ 10:15am

Sunday Worship @ 6:30pm

Wednesday Bible Study @ 7:00pm

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Spring Gospel Meeting
March 19-23, 2017
Jerome Sasanecki

"So then neither is he that planteth anything, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase."

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