
BIBLE TALK

This week the question is: **What if today were your last day alive?**

One day this will be more than just a topic on this program. One day you will finally have reached the last day that you're going to be alive. There are several men and women in the Atlanta area who got up this morning, dressed for work and left their houses not knowing that they would never return home to their families.

- Some will be in a wreck and will die.
- Some will have an unexpected heart attack.
- Some will have an accident of some sort that will prove fatal.

If they had only known that today was going to be their last day, they might have done a few things differently.

If you knew for sure that today were the last day what would you do? Would you be thinking:

- I wish I had watched just a little more television?
- I wish I had taken a few more drugs?
- I wish I had gotten drunk a few more times?
- I wish I had cheated a few more people?

Surely we would not be thinking those sort of things. The fact that you have called a Bible program indicates that you would not be thinking along these lines.

My friend, if today were actually your very last day on earth, I would hope you would be examining your life very carefully to make sure you were going to heaven when you died.

Matthew 16:26-27

26 "For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?"

27 "For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works."

Listen to this. The Lord is giving a warning and we need to listen. Many are too concerned with the things of this life and they are not giving the next life enough attention.

Luke 12:15

15 [Jesus] said ..., "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses."

My friend, it won't matter what kind of car you drove on earth. It won't matter how nice your house was. It won't matter how much money you had in the bank. It won't matter what position you held at work or in the community. The all important question that will matter on that day is: **Will God accept me?**

Listen to me: If any one of us is privileged to live in heaven with God, it will be because of His graciousness and His mercy. None of us will be there because of how wonderful we have been – for "All have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23).

God doesn't want anyone to perish, but He wants all to come to repentance (2 Pet 3:9). Isn't that obvious? Didn't He send His Son to die for everyone (1 Jn 2:2). God's graciousness is extended to everyone (Tit 2:11), but not everyone is going to be saved – for "many are called, but few are chosen" (Mt 22:14).

Q: How can you become one of the "chosen"? "Many are called, but few are chosen" – so how can a man become one of the "chosen" and know that he is chosen?

Ephesians 1:4-6

4 just as **He chose us in Him** before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before Him in love,
5 having predestined us to adoption as sons by Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the good pleasure of His will,
6 to the praise of the glory of His grace, by which **He has made us accepted in the Beloved.**

Write this passage down and look at it later when you have time to really think about it. Eph. 1:4-6. Underline these words in verse 4, "*He chose us in Him.*" In verse 6 under line the words, "*He has made us accepted in the Beloved.*"

The point I want you to see is that to be part of the "chosen" we have to be "in Him" – that is, we must be "in Christ." God decided before the foundation of the world that those who are "in Him" would be "holy and without blame." He decided before the world began that those "in Him" would be adopted as sons."

The next question is: How do we get “in Him” – that is, how do we get “in Christ” so that we are one of the “chosen” who will go to heaven?

Romans 6:3-4

3 Or do you not know that as many of us as were **baptized into Christ Jesus** were **baptized into His death**?

4 Therefore we were **buried with Him** through baptism into death, that just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life.

Galatians 3:27

27 For as many of you as were **baptized into Christ** have put on Christ.

Think about this my friend. To be one of the “chosen” you have to be “in Him” and you get “in Him” by being baptized “into Christ.”

If today were your last day on earth, you should want to examine yourself carefully and make sure you are going to heaven when you die. To be ready for that day, you need to be baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38). If you have not been baptized into Christ to wash away your sins (Acts 22:16), then you are not ready to meet your Maker! You cannot afford to die in your present condition.

Think about this carefully. Community churches and the Baptist Church are big here in the South. Many of you are members of the Baptist Church, but the Baptist Church does not baptize people for the remission of sins. In fact, you can read in Acts 19:1-5 where some people were baptized with John the Baptist’s baptism and that was not good enough – they had to be re-baptized so they would be “in Christ” – so they would be part of the “chosen” who were going to heaven.

Perhaps you have questions about this topic. Let’s talk about it in detail. I’ll tell you how in a moment.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Well ... thanks for listening to our message this week. We invite you to visit our web site www.WillOfTheLord.com. There you may download the notes and the audio file of the message you just listened to.

Call again next week when we consider a new subject on ***Bible Talk***.