

The University Heights Messenger

April 11, 2010

Every Body Wants To Go To Heaven, But No Body Wants To Go Now

I'm not much of a country music fan but my wife is and so I end up listening to it on a regular basis. Kenny Chesney released a song about a year ago that I'm sure you've heard if you listen to the genre. The chorus is the title of this article.

The whole point of Chesney's song is that while he wants to end up in heaven someday, he's just having too much fun living life and isn't ready. Toward the end of the song he says that he thinks he speaks for the crowd. I'm certain he speaks for most non Christians. Unfortunately, I'm confident that he speaks for a number of Christians as well.

The second to last verse in all the Scriptures is Revelation 22:20. The verse says, **"He who testifies to these things says, 'Surely I am coming soon.' Amen. Come, Lord Jesus!"** John was not *really* the author of this book, Jesus was. The Lord has come many times throughout the centuries. He has come in retribution (2:5, 16). He has come in response to the needs of His saints (3:11). Yet at the end of the Revelation He is speaking of the time when He will appear in person to gather His faithful saints to Himself and hand them up to the Father. To this John responds, **"Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"**

John's response is very telling and indicates what *should* be the response of every faithful heart in hearing the Lord's promise that the time will not be long and He is coming back. However, what should be and what is are not always the same thing. Sometimes Christians have a tendency to skip out on the Lord. Sometimes they choose to skip worship

service or workdays for things like concerts or ball games. Many Christians get angry and irritated when something like this is brought up. They say that they are not skipping out on the Lord in doing these things. Perhaps, perhaps not. I do think there is a very easy way to determine it. Suppose I chose to attend a ball game, or go see a movie, or do any other entertainment related activity at the very moment I knew my brethren were gathered to work or worship. Suppose as I sat there the Lord came in and sat down right next to me and asked why I was there instead of with my brethren. How comfortable I would be responding to that question would seem to tell me clearly whether I was skipping out on Him, wouldn't it?

Colossians 3:1-4 says, **"If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth. For you have died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory."** What a wonderful passage this is and what a wonderful anticipation it sets forth for the child of God. What type of Christian would see in this an event they'd rather postpone than hasten? Only the one who has fallen head over heels for this world and its pleasures. Only the one who has forgotten what it means to be alive *in Christ*. What a sorry Christian one must be to choose not to join voice with John in saying, **"Amen. Come Lord Jesus!"**

However, it could be that one simply *cannot* join voice with John in this because they are not ready to face the Lord at this moment. Perhaps rather than falling in love

with the pleasures of this world they have instead gotten themselves caught up in its daily grind. These are the one's who devote the majority of their time and energy to life's daily cares and worries. It would not be accurate to say that they do not love the Lord or hope one day for His appearing. It *would* be accurate to say that their love for Him has not yet reached a place where they could call for His immediate return as John did and long for it above all else.

When the time comes for the saints to be called to heaven, will you find yourself among that blessed number? Is it possible that you would find yourself among those who more than anything will have wished He held off a little longer, either through inordinate love of this world or simple unreadiness to meet Him? It is absolutey true that every body wants to go to heaven. It is is equally true that if a person ever expects to get there they'd better be preparing themselves for it right now. When He comes we're either going to heaven or we're going to hell and we'll be going to one of those places *right now*. So, are we ready?

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IN NEED OF PRAYERS:

Esmeralda Agustin is struggling spiritually. Let us continue to make efforts in reaching out to her and pray that the Lord continues to show her mercy in providing time for repentance.

Glenn Kimberlin is shut-in.

Rachel Crawford's aunt, Gail Stein, continues her treatments for breast cancer.

Taylor Osterling has been discharged from the hospital. Let's keep the little guy and his family in our prayers. There's nothing quite like watching your child struggle with his health and Taylor is struggling mightily.

Shannon Gilbert continues to receive her treatments for breast cancer.

Rachel Knollman is doing well with her treatments at home.

Robert Brundige, Richard's brother, is in Parkside Manor in Cynthiana dealing with some issues. **Sarah** Brundige, Richard's mother, is in Cambridge Place Nursing Home and in need of our prayer.

Let's also remember **David Day and his wife, Michelle Oxendine, Ron Catchen, Chuck McDavitt, and David Blakeman.**

UPCOMING EVENTS:

The men's meeting will be this afternoon at 3:30 p.m.

Thanks to Ralph, John, and Blake for filling in today while I'm away.

BIBLE READING SCHEDULE FOR 4/11-4/17:

Sunday: Num 10-11, Ps 68:1-18, John 8

Monday: Num 12-13, Ps 68:19-36, John 9

Tuesday: Num 14, Ps 69:1-18, John 10

Wednesday: Num 15, Ps 69:19-36, John 11

Thursday: Num 16, Ps 70, John 12

Friday: Num 17-18, Ps 71, John 13

Saturday: Num 19-20, Ps 72, John 14

SERMON TOPICS:

Sunday AM.

Sunday PM.

CLASS INFORMATION:

Lesson 12, III, F, 4 (Acts 20:28; 2 Tim. 2:2; tit. 2:1-8)