

WHAT A DAY THAT WILL BE!

By Roelf L. Ruffner

“But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?” (2 Peter 3:10-12).

Have you ever wondered what would happen if your home caught fire and you lost all your possessions? I viewed a TV commercial for the Red Cross in which a lady claimed that after her house caught fire, she and her family didn't even possess a toothbrush between them. I wonder what it would be like to start over. Many of us are too tied to this world: mementos, pictures, vehicles, boats, trophies, computers, guns, books, electronics, clothes, jewelry, antiques, etc. What about our jobs, friendships, associations, clubs, wife, husband, children, grandchildren, parents, etc.? If all they were to disappear, what would you have - you're body and possibly the clothes on your back. But what happens when your physical existence is gone? You have only what God gave you – your soul – which are all that is eternal about us. “For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?” (Mat. 16:26).

The Scriptures tell us that this life is temporary at best. “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). As physical beings we often get too tied to the physical and lose out on the eternal. “He also that received seed among the thorns is he that heareth the word; and the care of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, choke the word, and he becometh unfruitful” (Mat. 13:22). Yet what can we take with us to Paradise and then Heaven? Only our souls! Many make life long plans to leave behind something of remembrance: an estate, a house, an inheritance for descendents, a plaque on a wall, lands, a legacy, a building or even an ornate cemetery marker. But in a short time we will not even be a memory. On that Great Day of God's wrath all our possessions and monuments “on fire shall be dissolved” and “melt with fervent heat” and be “burned up.” (Verses 11-12).

The patriarch Job understood the haste of life when after losing all: wealth, children and health he exclaimed, “Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD” (Job 1:21). What a resounding affirmation of truth by this godly man! Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, wrote, “But godliness with contentment is great gain. For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and raiment let us be therewith content” (1 Tim. 6:6-8). Yet how many of us are content?

Let us remember the Lord Jesus Christ. He once told a materialistic would-be follower, “The foxes have holes, and the birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head” (Mat. 8:20). He died leaving behind bloody garments and a coat which were gambled over by the Roman soldiers and soon lost to history. But He rose from the dead three days later and was received by the Father in glory. Even today, almost 2,000 years later, His followers meet each first day of week to remember Him. They meditate upon His words and emulate His deeds. 2,000 years from now, if the Lord tarries, who will remember us? But for Christians the ultimate question will be, “Will Jesus remember me?” “His lord said unto him, Well done, thou 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” (Mat. 25:21).