



NEW LIFE

CHARISMATIC RENEWAL MINISTRY

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ETERNITY IS FOREVER

By Vince C. Dorazio

HOW LONG IS FOREVER?

Years ago, I heard an explanation of how long eternity really is. It went something like this.

"In some small rural towns in the mid-west there are small red school houses that served as the local school, Sunday Church, and sometime grain storage. Along one side of the one room schoolhouse is a row of grain storage bins under the windows. As harvest time draws near, the local farmers store some of their grain in the schoolroom bins. By spring most of the grain is used up, however, a considerable amount remains. One day, just before the summer vacation began, the school teacher, who also is the Sunday school teacher, decided to clean the schoolroom and also give the children a lesson in religion. The lesson was "ETERNITY IS FOREVER!" She told the children that their task was to clean out the grain storage bins by taking out the remaining grain in the bins; one grain at a time. Then they were to wash and dry the inside of the bins, and then put all the remaining seeds of grain back into the bins; one grain at a time. At this time all of the children shouted out WOW! THAT WILL TAKE FOREVER! Lesson taught!"

A BLINK OF AN EYE

When I received the Baptism In The Spirit, a Lutheran friend told me the importance of accepting Jesus as my personal Savior. He mentioned how fast time will go by, and how short our lifetime on earth will be compared to eternity. He told me to just normally blink

my eyelids once, which I did. He then explained that my blink of my eye lid was my life that just went by compared to eternity! Have you blinked your eye lids? Try it, and when you do, you will get a good idea how long we have here on earth. No doubt, many of you have heard the phrase ***'time is short – so make the best of it.'*** How true that is.

PLANS FOR THE FUTURE

Every time when the New Year begins, people make "New Year's Resolution(s)", and sometimes make plans for the future year to come. Some may plan to move to a newer house. Others will make plans for where they will go on vacation. Still others will decide to get organized, and begin to clean out their attics and basements of all the "junk" that has accumulated over the years. They will probably plan to hold a garage sale.

These are all good plans and are needed in our lives. But, how many of us are planning for the real future ---ETERNITY? Have you ever thought about eternity? Where do you plan on spending eternity? And with who? I venture to guess not many have given it much thought. I think most of us have taken it for granted that we will be with God in heaven. But what plans have we made to prepare for where we will spend eternity?

When we plan a vacation trip, we usually get brochures and road maps to help guide us to our destination. We follow the directions that take us safely to our vacation spot. After all, we want to enjoy ourselves when we arrive. So it is important that we follow directions, and just as important that we are prepared.

PREPARED FOR ETERNITY

From the moment we are born we are preparing for eternity. As youngsters, we learned from our Sunday school lessons as to why we were created. When God created Adam and Eve from the clay of the earth, He continued creating us through Adam and Eve. The first lesson we learned in Sunday school was why God created us. Remember?

QUESTION: Why did God make us?

ANSWER: God created us to show His goodness and to share with us His everlasting happiness in Heaven.

QUESTION: What must we do to gain the happiness of heaven?

ANSWER: To gain the happiness of heaven we must know, love, and serve God in this world.

What can you do as Christians to prepare for eternity?

- First and foremost is to renew your life in Jesus daily, and ask the Holy Spirit to guide your daily lives. He will give you direction and purpose in your life. Jesus said, **"I have come that you may have life, and have it to the fullest."** (John 10:10)
- Second, it is necessary to get rid of all the sin (junk) that has accumulated and cluttering up your life. Not to pass it on to others (garage sale), but to get rid of it once and for all, by giving it to Jesus. For Jesus said, **"This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins."** (Matthew 26:28)
- Third, is to make it a practice to read the Bible (brochure and road map) that God has provided. Read the Scriptures daily, at least a minimum of 15 minutes a day. Meditate on what the Scriptures are meaning for you today. **"All Scripture is inspired of God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, correction, and training in holiness."** (2 Timothy 3:16)

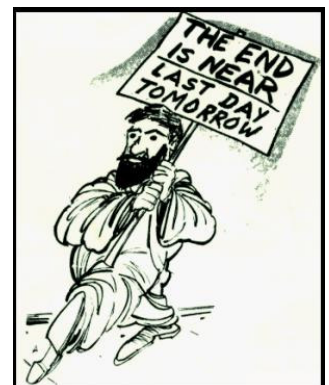
- Fourth, share your renewed life with other people so that they too may begin to prepare themselves for eternity. Your testimony may be just what someone needs to hear, to help them turn their life around and accept Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Jesus said, **"Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven."** (Matthew 10:32)

Believe it or not, eternity will be here sooner than you think, and we must get our priorities in order. The majority of people go through life with the primary purpose of having a "nest egg" of money and valuable things. This is what Jesus has to say about that. **"Do not lay up for yourselves an earthly treasure. Moths and rust will corrode; thieves will break in and steal. Make it your practice instead to store up heavenly treasure, which neither moths nor rust will corrode, nor thieves will break in and steal. Remember, where your treasure is, there your heart is also."** (Matthew 6:19-20)

If you haven't already done so, then start today to make preparations as to where you will spend eternity. If you have already started, then maybe you can help someone else in their preparation.

Make it a point to attend church regularly. And, also make it a point to attend weekly prayer meetings, where you can share with other Christian believers. Jesus said, **"Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am in their midst."** (Matthew 18:20)

ARE YOU PREPARED



NEW LIFE RENEWAL

THE PRIMARY PURPOSE OF THIS NEWSLETTER IS TO PROCLAIM THAT JESUS CHRIST IS LORD!

MISSION

In our mission to reach out to as many people as possible with the good news that **JESUS CHRIST IS LORD**, we would like to enlist your participation in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. Are you prepared to be a part of our outreach ministry?

We pray that you enjoy receiving this newsletter, and that it is helpful to your spiritual growth. We would like to send the New Life Newsletter to your friends, and to other people you know that would also enjoy and benefit from receiving New Life.

Please fill out the form to the right and return it to us and we will add their name to our next mailing.

NOTICE:

Beginning with this newsletter we can now accept donations by credit card. We can accept



Be sure to include your complete card number and expiration date, plus the 3 digit number from the reverse side of the card by your signature. You can make your donations by filling out the form on the next page and returning it to us. We thank you in advance for your support and for your prayers.

NEED PRAYER?

If you or someone you know is in need of personal prayer, we would like to include you in our daily prayer requests. Please cut out the form below with your prayer request and mail it to us. We will add your request to our prayer list. **Please pray for all those in need of prayer.**

PRAYER REQUEST	(Please Print)	Please pray for the following person
Name _____		
Prayer Need(s) _____		
Requested By _____		
Address _____		
Email _____		
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CHARISMATIC PRAYER MEETINGS
THURSDAYS 7:30 PM

St Albert's Catholic Church
29th Street & 32nd Ave. South Minneapolis, MN.
(1 Block North of E. Lake St.)
Call ahead for Handicap Accessibility 612-282-9896

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