

SAVED
BY THE
GRACE
OF GOD

by Gary and Lynda Miller

God calls His book, “the word of truth”, in II Timothy 2:15. God also describes Himself in Titus 1:2 as “...God, who cannot lie”. We can trust His book because God, who cannot lie, wrote it and it is the word of truth.

This booklet will look at what God says about:

- **the brevity of life**
- **the certainty of death**
- **the necessity of the Grace of God**

God says that your life is short in duration. It is brief in time and appears to fly by.

Job 7:6- 7, “My days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle...”

Verse 7, “O remember that my life is wind:”

A weaver’s shuttle is not something we talk a lot about these days. The action referenced here could be described today by the movement of a sewing machine needle going up and down. It doesn’t take a long time for this to happen. In fact, it happens so fast that the eye cannot even see it. This is how fast Job declares his life span to last. Man’s days are swifter than a weaver’s shuttle.

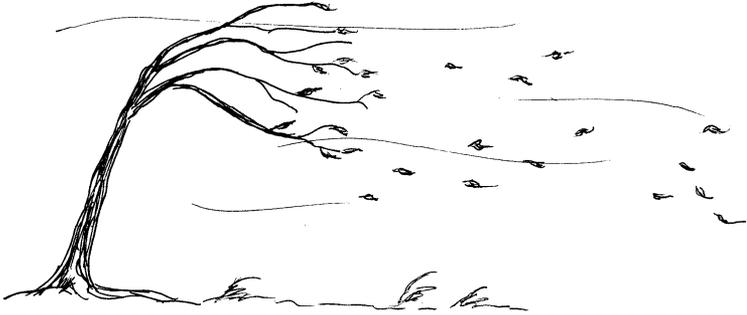


As Swift Ships or an Eagle

Job 9:25, 26 “...my days...” Vs. 26, “They are passed away as the swift ships: as the eagle that hasteth to the prey.”

Swift ships pass very quickly. Have you seen an eagle hastening to its prey? It happens so fast that the prey gets caught off guard and becomes a meal

for the eagle. What a picture the Lord gives for the brevity of life!



A Wind that Passeth Away

Psalms 78:39 “For he (God) remembered that they were but flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.”

Here God describes your life as a wind. A wind that passeth away and cometh not again. Not a long lasting wind but a wind of short duration, a quickly passing wind. This wind is temporary, moving fast and not returning.

My Time is Short

Psalms 89:47 “Remember how short my time is:”

God measures your life in time and God says it is short. We know that a child thinks that life is long. The child looks ahead in time and wishes it away to reach an age he aspires to. Those at the other end of life know that the child is wrong and that God is right. Time is short as God says. You might say or hear someone else say, “Where did all that time go?” “It went so fast.” “I can’t believe it’s coming to an end.” The rapid passing of time proves the Scriptures to be right.

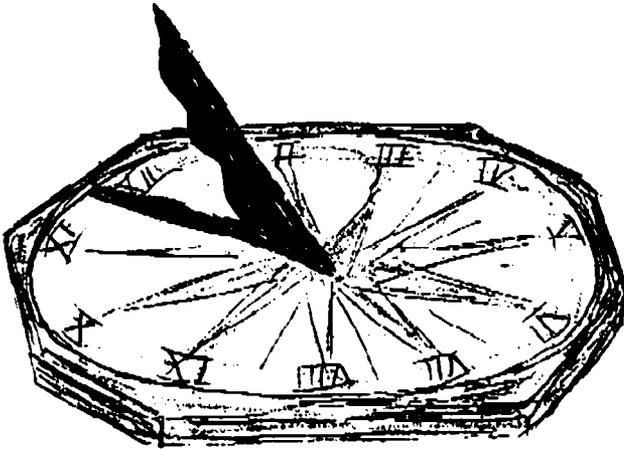
No matter how many years one’s life lasts, at the end, he will agree with God, how short my time is.

As Withering Grass

Isaiah 40:6-8 “...All flesh is grass, and all the goodliness thereof is as the flower of the field: The grass withereth, the flower fadeth: because the spirit of the LORD bloweth upon it: surely the people is grass.”

God tells us that man is like grass. Grass doesn’t last long. Grass lasts for a little while and then it withereth. What a humbling description of man. We would prefer it if God would tell us that we are like something strong and long lasting, perhaps like

a giant redwood tree that lives thousands of years. Remember, God is telling us the truth. When we see the grass withering, we should be reminded of these verses that teach us of the brevity of our life.



Like a Shadow that Declineth

Psalms 102:11, “My days are like a shadow that declineth;”

As a shadow is long early in the day, we see it decline toward the end of the day. It’s not a long period of time from the early part of the day to the latter part of the day. As a shadow declines, so does one’s life. God can teach the teachable even from a shadow.



A Vapour that Vanisheth

James 4:14 , “...For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”

Our life is as a “vapour”. Picture a teakettle on the stove with steam coming out from the spout. This vapour can teach us something about the length of our life. It’s short! God is demonstrating here that as the vapour appears for a little time and then vanisheth away, so does our life.

All God’s examples of the length of our life teach the same truth. Life is short. A weaver’s shuttle, wind, swift ship, eagle hastening toward its prey, short time, declining shadow, withering grass and a vapour all speak of brevity.

God tells us that our life will be short and pass very rapidly. When this short time is over, it will conclude with death.

God tells us why we die, in His word.

God says in I Cor. 15:22, “For as in Adam all die.”

God explains this in Rom. 5:12, “Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:”

Sin entered the world because of the sin of Adam. Adam and Eve disobeyed God. That is what sin is, disobeying God. God cursed man with death, the penalty for sin. All men are sinners by nature and death has passed to all men.

In Genesis 2:16, 17, God tells Adam and Eve, “And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.”

We read how Satan changed the word of God to Eve and contradicted God with the words in Gen. 3:4, “And the serpent said unto the women, Ye shall not surely die:”

God, who cannot lie, kept His word to Adam and Eve. They did die. God had two deaths in view here. One was spiritual and one was physical. Their sin immediately broke their previously unbroken fellowship between them and God. They died spiritually. They were now dead to God. They were no longer in a right relationship to their Creator God. They would also suffer a physical death sometime in the future. They both did die a physical death.

Rom. 5:12 says that, “death passed upon all men”. I Cor. 15:22, “For as in Adam all die.” All men die because we are, as God says, “in Adam”. Adam passed on his sin nature to all mankind.

The apostle Paul reminds us of our position before God in Rom. 3:23, “For all have sinned and come

short of the glory of God”. We learn here that in addition to having a sin nature, we commit sins.

Rom. 6:23, “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”. The wages of our sin is death. God teaches that there are two deaths in view here. The first is our physical death, when our soul and spirit leave the body. Then the Scriptures talk about a second death. The second death takes place when God judges sinful man and casts the unbelieving into the Lake of Fire.

Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

In Rom. 6:23 we see the little word, “but”. “But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.” We learn here that God has provided and continues to provide a gift for man. The gift is eternal life and it is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Our response should be, “How do I get the gift? How can I escape the penalty of my sin? How can I keep from being judged for my sin and being declared guilty and cast into the Lake of Fire forever? How do I receive the gift and have eternal life through Jesus Christ?”

God has not kept the answers to these questions hidden or a secret. The Word of God is where we go to learn what God has said. God has always

provided a “gospel”— God’s word that is to be obeyed by faith for man’s salvation. Today in the dispensation of grace, God’s gospel that can save us can be found in the following scriptures.

Eph. 2:8- 9, “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast.”

Rom. 3:24, “Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.”

I Cor. 15:1-4, verse 3 & 4, “...Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

It was the blood of Christ that was shed on Calvary’s cross that allowed God to be just in justifying sinners like you and me.

Heb. 9:22b “...and without shedding of blood is no remission”.

Eph. 1:7 “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;”

God’s gospel is clear and simple. It is a gospel of grace. Christ died for our sins, was buried and rose again. God does all the saving and you do the

believing. Salvation is a gift because it is provided freely for man by the grace of God. Salvation cannot be earned by anything you do. Salvation is not of works lest any man would boast. God is able to forgive your sin and save you because His Son paid the penalty for your sin when He died on Calvary's cross. God is now free to save those who believe the gospel message.

Rom. 3:24, "Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus." Grace is a marvelous word and a wonderful way for God to deal with His creation. Grace can be described as unmerited favor-in the face of demerit. Grace is God's kindness to undeserving sinners.

In Rom. 8:32 we see an example of God's grace toward man. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him freely give us all things?"

God did not spare Christ. Christ went to the cross and died there for your sins. This was an act of God's grace toward all mankind. Man didn't deserve it. There was no good thing in man to commend himself to God to encourage it. Rom. 5:8- 9, "But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him."

Have you trusted in the Lord Jesus Christ as your Saviour? God looks at your heart. God knows if your faith is resting in the Lord Jesus Christ and His substitutionary death for you on Calvary's cross or if your faith is in something or someone else. God sees the heart.

In Rom. 4:3-4, "For what saith the scripture? Abraham believed God, and it was counted unto him for righteousness. Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt." The scriptures are clear; God will save you by His grace when you cease trusting in yourself, your religion or anything else and believe the Gospel of Christ.

I Cor. 1:18 "For the preaching of the cross is to them that perish foolishness; but unto us which are saved it is the power of God." The Holy Spirit uses the preaching of the cross in the dispensation of grace to save men.

There is no soul salvation in trusting in or doing any of the following:

- obeying the Ten Commandments
- doing your best
- living a good life
- doing good works
- obeying the Golden Rule
- giving money to a church
- church membership or attendance

- praying
- being water baptized
- taking holy communion
- being confirmed
- doing penance
- or by anything else you do or your church does for you!

Salvation is by the Grace of God! Your part is to simply believe.

Rom. 11:6, “And if by grace, then is it no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if it be of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

Rom. 4:5, “But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

Salvation is not a result of your trusting in Christ’s substitutionary death on the cross and your work added to it. That is what religion teaches, not what the word of God teaches. Salvation is a gift. Salvation is a free gift. You cannot work for a gift. The gift of eternal life is free for us to receive but it cost God the death of His only begotten Son. We cannot add anything to His payment of our sins. Christ did it all.

Eph. 1:13, “In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise,”

You can be saved right now by simply believing the Gospel, that Christ died for your sins and that His blood is the total payment for your sins. The moment you believe in your heart, God will forgive you and save you by His grace. Eph. 1:13 tells us that we are then sealed with His Holy Spirit, which makes us His for all eternity. This seal is God’s guarantee that your salvation is eternal (Eph. 4:30, II Cor. 1:22).

Eph. 4:30, “And grieve not the holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.”
II Cor. 1:22, “ Who hath also sealed us, and given the earnest of the Spirit in our hearts.”

God did all the saving and He does all the keeping. We can never lose our salvation. We are saved and kept by God’s grace. God does all the saving by His grace and you can trust Him to keep you by His grace.

Remember, life is short, don’t delay. Trust Christ today and be saved by the grace of God!

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