



The Burning Bush—Online article archive

A Shortage Affecting Us All

Many are concerned about the shortages of those fuels that we have all become so used to -- coal, oil, natural gas. Environmentalists are even concerned about the shortages of certain gases in the atmosphere of the earth. The felling of hundreds of square miles of jungle and forest and its effect upon the natural balance that exists in creation is also cause for concern among many. There is one commodity, if I may call it that, that should take precedence over all other shortages -- the shortage of time.

We are all creatures of time. How short is the time given us! It is as the burst of steam from a kettle that quickly vanishes away, James 4: 14.

There are certain things that we must do in the time allotted to us, otherwise the consequences are too dreadful to contemplate.

Firstly, the first demand upon our time is to seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, Matthew 6: 33. Man's chief obligation is to glorify God and to enjoy Him forever. How few there are who see any place whatever in their life and its affairs for God. They care little about their relationship with God. They intend leaving that to the last moments of their life when it ought to have priority.

Secondly, the obtaining of salvation is something that can happen only in our lifetime. After death is judgment, not another opportunity to settle the destiny of our souls. The soul that departs this life unconverted is lost. Many have hopes of taking up the question, after they die, of whether or not they shall be in Heaven. They are mistaken. "It is appointed unto man once to die, but after this the judgment". Hebrews 9: 27. Do not be fooled by a false hope.

Thirdly, short and all as time is, if we rightly use it we can reap a rich harvest. The rich fool of Luke 12: 16-21 would have appeared to many as a man who wisely employed his time. God did not think so. He had full barns but a lost soul. Moses, on the other hand, turned down the opportunity of power, honour and wealth. Instead of these, he associated himself with the slave-people of Israel. He made the right choice for he saw that God was amongst that people. He reckoned it was better to be poor for a short period and then eternally rich than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season, (Hebrews 11: 24-27). Just what are you doing with your time?