

"Things That Happen In A Moment"

Text: 2 Corinthians 4:17-18

Introduction:

-In our study I want us to look at some things in the scriptures that we are told happen in a "moment".

-Moment defined = The most minute and indivisible part of time; an instant.

-Bible definition of moment = "in the twinkling of an eye".

I. THE CHRISTIAN'S SUFFERING

-2 Cor. 4:17 - "For our light affliction, which is but for **a moment**, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

-Affliction - A state of pain distress or grief.

-Notice Paul calls the Christian's suffering, "light affliction."

-Look at what Paul called light:

-2 Cor. 4:8-10 - "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; Persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed; Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body."

-2 Cor. 11:23-33 - "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not. In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me: And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands."

-Acts 14:19 - "And there came thither certain Jews from Antioch and Iconium, who persuaded the people, and, having stoned Paul, drew him out of the city, supposing he had been dead."

-2 Tim. 4:10 - "For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia."

-2 Tim. 4:14-16 - "Alexander the coppersmith did me much evil: the Lord reward him according to his works: Of whom be thou ware also; for he hath greatly withstood our words. At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge."

-Paul's mark of being a Christian was his suffering.

-What marks of suffering do you have?

-Hits that you have taken for living for Christ.

-You and I moan and complain and belly ache over the least little trouble in our lives.

-Truly, what you and I go through are light afflictions.

-We will probably never go through what Paul experienced.

-We must remember that suffering is a part of living for God.

-Why Jesus said consider the cost to be my disciple.

-Paul said in 2 Tim. 3:12 - "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution."

-Paul is saying if you are living for God than you can count on being persecuted.

-1 Pe. 4:12-13 - "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

-Vs. 12 - Apostle Peter is saying if you are a Christian then suffering should be no stranger to you.

-Vs. 13 - Peter continues and says "rather suffering is a reason to rejoice, because you are suffering for Christ's sake."

-1 Pe. 5:10 - "But the God of all grace, who hath called us unto his eternal glory by Christ Jesus, after that ye have suffered a while, make you perfect, stablish, strengthen, settle you."

-What Peter is telling us that suffering in this life is for the maturing of the saint.

-Going back to 2 Cor. 4:17, we read - "For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;"

-What Paul is saying is what we go through in this life as a Christian is just for a moment, like a twinkling of the eye compare to the time to be spent in eternity.

-The afflictions that we go through now compare to eternity is like a grain of sand on all the beaches in the world.

-Also, the payoff for our afflictions is great according to the word of God - "worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory."

-Examples of the payoff as found in the word of God:

-2 Tim. 2:12 - "If we suffer, we shall also reign with him: if we deny him, he also will deny us:"

-2 Tim. 4:6-8 - "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

-However, the reason that we lose sight of the fact that our afflictions are but for "a moment" is because we have a tendency to focus on the things which are seen, the temporal instead of the things which are unseen or eternal.

-Paul said in 2 Cor. 4:18 - "While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. "

-So, we have seen then that our suffering is but for "a moment".

II. THE RAPTURE

-1 Cor. 15:51-55 - "Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

-The catching away of the body of Christ, the church will have happen in "a moment".

-All those who have believed on Christ for salvation from the Day of Pentecost until the rapture will be taken out of this world both those dead in Christ and alive in Christ at His coming.

-This event will happen in an instant, in the time that takes to blink your eye.

-It will be over very quickly.

-The 2,000 years of calling out a bride for Christ will be over.

-At this time the body of each believer will be finally redeemed.

-We will be given a new glorified body, like Christ according to 1 John 3:2.

-"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

-Phil. 3:21 - "Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

-The Apostle Paul realized that he lived in a vile body.

-He said in Rom. 7:18 - "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not."

-Did you know that according to the word of God that as believers right now inside we are groaning for this day?

-Rom. 8:23 - "And not only they, but ourselves also, which have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body."

-At last in a moment, in a twinkling of an eye, the believer's transformation will be complete.

-The last part of the believer will be saved, redeem - the body.

- So, now the spirit, soul, and ^{body} ~~soul~~ will be saved.
- In that day, the believer will totally realize what Paul meant when he said in 1 Cor. 15:57 - "But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

III. GOD'S DEALING WITH ISRAEL

-Isaiah 54:7-8 - "For **a small moment** have I forsaken thee; but with great mercies will I gather thee. In a little wrath I hid my face from thee for **a moment**; but with everlasting kindness will I have mercy on thee, saith the LORD thy Redeemer."

-Many teach today the heresy that God is all through with the nation of Israel that He has stopped dealing with them.

-That all the blessings that God promised to Israel in the Old Testament now belong to the church.

-Of course this is all nonsense and all one has to do is rightly divide the word of truth and they will clearly see that God is not through dealing with the Jews.

-In the Old Testament, Israel rejected the ministry of God, the Father.

-He divorced Israel because she went a whoring after the gods of the other heathen nations.

-Then in the gospels Israel is given another opportunity to get right with God.

-Do you know who Jesus sends his 12 Apostles to preach and minister His word to?

-The answer is found in the word of God.

-Matthew 10:5-7 - "These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, **Go not** into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: But **go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. And as ye go, preach, saying, The kingdom of heaven is at hand."

-In Matthew 15:21-27, notice especially in verse 24 what Jesus tells a Gentile woman who asks for help.

-"Then Jesus went thence, and departed into the coasts of Tyre and Sidon. And, behold, a woman of Canaan came out of the same coasts, and cried unto him, saying, Have mercy on me, O Lord, thou Son of David; my daughter is grievously vexed with a devil. But he answered her not a word. And his disciples came and besought him, saying, Send her away; for she crieth after us. But he answered and said, **I am not sent but unto the lost sheep of the house of Israel**. Then came she and worshipped him, saying, Lord, help me. But he answered and said, It is not meet to take the children's bread, and to cast it to dogs. And she said, Truth, Lord: yet the dogs eat of the crumbs which fall from their masters' table.

-However, the Nation of Israel rejects the ministry of God, the Son by crucifying Him.

-Israel is yet given another chance to get right with God and accept Jesus Christ as their Messiah through the ministry of the Holy Spirit as recorded in the early chapters of the Book of Acts.

-Again, the Nation of Israel rejects this opportunity to get right with God.

- We see this rejection in Acts 7 with stoning to death of Stephen.
- Then in Acts 8, we see a Gentile, black man get saved by believing on Christ.
- So, then from then on God starts calling out a primarily Gentile bride for His Son.
- But this is but for "a moment", that moment is called the Church Age or the Age of Grace and lasts for approximately 2,000 years.
- You probably thinking that 2,000 years is not just a moment but a long time.
- However, 2,000 years is but "a moment" to God.
- We read in 2 Peter 3:8 - "But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day."
- The Bible tells us that a thousand years is but one day to the Lord.
- So, the church age of approximately 2,000 years to God is 2 days or "a moment".
- Romans 11, this whole chapter deals with the blindness of Israel and God's dealing with them.
- In Romans 11:1-6, Paul writes the Roman believers and tells them in the near future a remnant of Israel shall be saved.
- Paul tells us that because the Jews rejected Christ, the door of salvation was now opened to the Gentiles.
- Romans 11:11 - "I say then, Have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid: but rather through their fall salvation is come unto the Gentiles, for to provoke them to jealousy."
- Paul warns the Gentiles in Romans 11:18-21, about boasting about how God rejected the Jews and now has turned to the Gentiles.
- "Boast not against the branches. But if thou boast, thou bearest not the root, but the root thee. Thou wilt say then, The branches were broken off, that I might be grafted in. Well; because of unbelief they were broken off, and thou standest by faith. Be not highminded, but fear: For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee."
- Paul continues in verses 25-27, to tells us the believers at Rome that Israel shall be restored someday and what has happen to them is just temporary.
- "For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: For this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins."
- So, in "a moment" that land grant that God promised to Abraham back in Genesis 12, will be finally belong to Israel.
- But not until the Nation of Israel goes through "the Great Tribulation".
- In "a moment", God will start dealing with Israel again.
- As soon as we hear the shout, the voice of the archangel and the trump of God sounds, the church will be taken out and God picks up dealing with Israel.
- 1 Thess. 4:16 - For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:"
- The Bible tells us that the archangel is Michael.

-Michael represents or stand for the nation of Israel as revealed in Daniel 12:1.
-"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the **children of thy people**: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book"
-"children of thy people" = the nation of Israel.
-So, when we hear the shout, the voice of the archangel, and the trump of God sounds then God will begin dealing Israel as evidenced by Michael's presence at the rapture.

-Conclusion:

-So, we have seen some things that happen in a moment.
-The Christian's Suffering
-The Rapture
-God's dealing with Israel.
-My dear friend the question is will you go up at the rapture?
-Only those who have trusted Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour will go up!!!
-My dear friend won't you believe from your heart if you never have that Christ died for your sins, was buried, and rose the third day to save you!
-Won't call upon his name today and be saved!!!
-Romans 10:9-13 - "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed. For there is no difference between the Jew and the Greek: for the same Lord over all is rich unto all that call upon him. For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.