

(1). "The Most important Day of 1978."

Introd:- (1). What do you think of this subject..TOPIC.../?
Nearing end of year,,and per. do us good to review it...
Sometimes older folk take backward look over whole life...
David did..Ps. 71...with profit.."Psalm of an old man."
Babyhood..vs.6..God gave him his life..Youth..vs.5, 17..
time of learning to know and trust God..Strong manhood..
vs.7-8..tho. not an easy road..vs.20...Later life..vs.15:16
witnessing for God bec. not too much time left..Old age..
vs.9, 18..Time of prayer ministry..asking for God's help..
that he might shew God's ways to another generation..And
I like to read last vs..vs.21-24..the last view of the old
man..knowing God's comfort..STILL SINGING..and telling
others about the saving grace of our Lord Jesus X.

(2). Per. some of you..us..can claim that as life-story..
May it be a guiding pattern for younger folk. Don't be a
drop-out. Go for God thru. your whole life..NO REGRETS.....
But let me get back to first ques...TOPIC...Not most imp.
of whole life. That might be named as birth.."I'm here!"
Or some grad. day..Or marriage day..NEW BIRTH DAY..
But what about this present year? Other day I heard chapel
speaker at Berean B. Coll. talk about "Last times." But
he was not bringing a proph. message..He said this: "When
was last time you spoke to someone about the Saviour?..When
..last time invited someone to church...Made visitor welcome
..Helped a brother or sister..Are you ready for LAST TIME
when our Lord will come.? Searching questions, aren't
they?..and all about the NOW..days of this near-ending year.

I. Well, have you made up mind as to...TOPIC?

(a). Like to hear my suggestion? It is TODAY! Dec.10th!
And I want to give two reasons for that suggestion...

FIRST:- It is the only day we HAVE. TODAY I am alive..here
on earth. Yesterday is completely spent..gone into history
..never to be repeated. Its record is written..sealed up
until I stand at the Judgment Seat of Jesus Christ. I live
ONLY in this present moment..NOW.

SECOND:- Most imp. because our Lord Jesus MAY COME today
to take His church home. He did not come yesterday..but
may come before I close eyes in sleep tonight. Paul said
to Titus.."Live..looking..for that blessed hope, and the
glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus
Christ." So we are told to live expectantly TODAY.

MAY I ADD A THIRD REASON? This is the day we face onslaught
of Satanic forces. Yesterday's battles are over..Today's
conflict is here..NOW. I Peter 5:8 "The devil, as a roaring
lion, walketh about (NOW..present tense) seeking whom he

may devour." It's a NOW thing. Illus:- "Why doesn't God destroy the devil?" He will. Why create? Long past. Why NOW? TODAY is the battlefield..testing time..trial of faith time.

II. Now let's take long look at history of man..see where we are

(a); I want to set this around a text. Like to memorize it?

Two words! Here it is: "NOT YET." Take it home with you.????

What mean? "Not up to this point in time." Now read it:

Heb. 2:6-8..Wrapped up in those words is whole past history of human race..UP TO THIS POINT IN TIME..TODAY.. (most imp. day

What tell us?: First:- God made man. Not product of some ridic. evolutionary process. Man was made by God..in His image

Second:- God was mindful of him..visited him..in Eden..many - times since..including greatest visit of all..Incarnation of X

Third:- God made man a little lower than angels. A diff. order of being. I am not an angel..never will be. You!

Fourth:- God crowned man..glory, honour..as ruler of this earth..all animals..all land and sea..birds of air.

This was God's great plan when He set man on earth. To reign.

(b). The story breaks there. With word "BUT". Man created by God to rule all the earth..BUT..something happened. You know what it was. Man did NOT evolve..He fell..into SIN..and

thereby lost his crown..his rulership..and gave it to the usurper, Satan..so that he is now called Prince of this world.

And in this state all of us..all mankind now live.

(c). So we come to the two words.."NOT YET"..Not at this point in time do we see do we see all things put under him. The curse

fell, not only on man, but on created things. Animals are not willingly submissive to man. Some of them fight back..kill..

Thorns and thistles spring from ground..(Gen.3:18)..Even the soil itself is cursed (3:17) and will not yield its full

strength to our cultivation (4:12) and man toils in the sweat of his face in order to get his bread (3:19) Even the true

relationship between a man and his wife is disturbed..and the woman knows the pangs of child-birth. God's plan for the

rulership of man has been delayed, postponed by the fall. NOT YET do we see man king of the earth as God intended.

III. Dark picture? Wait..there is another side to story.

(a). Those two words "NOT YET" carry with them a sense of the future, beyond today. When I say "not up to THIS point" I

infer that there is a point beyond..something still ahead.. e.g. at morning wake-up time.."I have not had breakfast up

to this point"..I infer the hope that I am going to have it a bit later..sooner the better!

(b). Cheer up, ye saints of God! Not yet do we see the Lord's people crowned with glory..often the opposite..despised and

rejected, like our Lord..BUT THIS IS NOT THE END..Not yet!

c/f badge..PBPGINFWMY.....God's plans will be completed!

They will be completed regarding His church. Some future day the last sheep will be found..brought into fold..and the Good Shepherd will become the Great Shephard and gather the flock to His eternal home.

They will be completed regarding the nations. He is in control and will judge the nations..(Matt.25). Not yet..up to this point they run to wild extremes of wickedness..but God has not forgotten.

His plans will be completed concerning His Son, our Lord Jesus. God is going to make Him King of Kings. Yes, the challenger is coming..Antichrist, with his religious rep. False Prophet (the big one)..under two horns or leaders..??? But the issue is already settled. Illus:- Boy and book ..villain triumphant, hero suffering.."If you only knew what I know." (He had taken peek at last chapter) ...We... NOT YET..but certainly coming. Let me read again..Heb. 2:8b -9 "BUT we see not yet all things put under him...BUT we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the engels (a man like us) for the suffering of death (His redeeming death ..CROWNED WITH GLORY AND HONOUR." He is already at the Father's right hand..and we are going to be with Him.. Rev.5:10 "And hast made US unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth." God's original plans for His people..interrupted by mankind's fall into sin..will one day be completed. His plans for you and me! Best is ahead.

Conclus:- (1). Let me say it again.."NOT YET". Rom. 8:23-25 "We WAIT for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body." If we truly know the Lord Jesus as our Saviour.. fully trust Him..we HAVE the redemption of our souls. BUT we wait for redemption of body..for the day when it will be transformed..glorified..made like His body. NOT YET. And sometimes we might feel life is hard..not worth while.. not worth the living. Both young and old can feel that way. (2). May God encourage all of us TODAY..this best day of the year. I have today..what will I do with it? Because of the wonderful plan God has for me..personally..I want to use it as a preparation times for what lies ahead. How? We might name many ways...PRAYER...Did you pray today? 1 minute..6? Time is imp..but more imp..QUALITY. Did you TODAY really reach God with whole heart? LISTEN. to Word of God.. II Tim. 3:16 "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable." We are IN TRAINING, TODAY..for our place in the final plans of God..This is what our Lord meant when He said this to Peter: John 1:42.."Thou ART Peter..Thou SHALT BE..Cephas, a stone." To us he says "You ARE, TODAY.. you SHALL be a wonderful part of my plan, crowned with glory and honour."

Which is the most important day of 1978? THIS DAY..the only day I have..that in it I may so yield myself to the will of God..so communicate with Him..so listen to His word and obey it..that I might BECOME a prepared servant of the Master..prepared unto every good work..in this life . and, most of all, for my place in His eternal plans.

(3). God counts on me..you..as His ambassadors here on earth ...serving, receiving His instructions..Obeying them...

TODAY...that His Kingdom might come tomorrow.

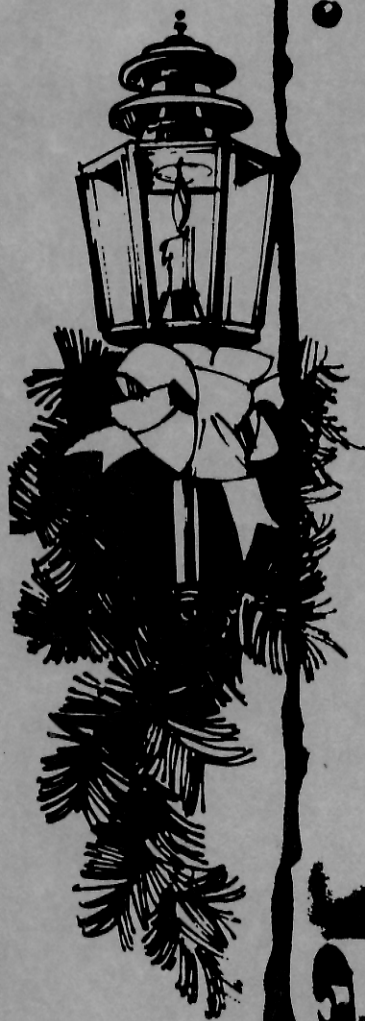
And there we can confidently rest..under the molding and making pressure of His hand.

The final goal....Rom. 8:28-29. LIKE JESUS!

Illus:- Sir, are you Jesus?

Brecon Chapel - Dec. 19/78

Londen MB - Den's Ct. Banquet - Dec 10/78



a special Christmas thought

THIS Christmas mend a quarrel. Seek out a forgotten friend. Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust. Write a love letter. Share some treasure. Give a soft answer. Encourage youth. Manifest your loyalty in word and deed. Keep a promise. Find the time. Forgo a grudge. Forgive an enemy. Listen. Apologize if you are wrong. Try to understand. Flout envy. Examine your demands on others. Think of someone else. Appreciate. Be kind, be gentle. Laugh a little. Laugh a lot more. Deserve confidence. Take up arms against malice. Decry any complacency. Express your gratitude. Go to church. Welcome a stranger. Gladden the heart of a child. Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth. Speak your love. Speak it again. Speak it still once again. Make this Christmas Merry.