

THE DAY THE EARTH STOPS

8/10/23

In the 1860s, a 'dead line' was a line within or around a prison. Prisoners would be shot for crossing the 'dead line'. However, the sense of a deadline that is most commonly found today ("a date or time before which something must be done") did not begin to see use until the early 20th century. A newer translation has come about in recent history where it has taken on another meaning.

*We're all confronted with deadlines. Bills must be paid, licenses renewed, tax returns filed... the list goes on and on. Despite the differing meanings, one deadline is of supreme importance. It's one we all will face. **HEB 9:27** And as it is appointed unto men **once to die**, but **after this the judgment**:*

There are two major events that occur in the life of all people... their death and their facing judgment before the Lord.

*Except for believers who are living when Jesus returns, the vast majority will die. **1THE 4:15** For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not **prevent** (rise before) them which are asleep. **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: **17** Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. **18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.** And all people from the beginning of history will one day stand before God in judgment. How foolish to neglect the preparation necessary for this inevitable deadline!*

There is an absolute disaster upon the earth, far worse than Noah and the ark.

*Think about who you are and your status, what you can offer your family and friends. **2PET 3:10** But the day of the Lord will come as **a thief in the night** (a great surprise);*

in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great **noise,... with lots of very loud, very audible noises.*

and the **elements shall **melt** with fervent **heat**, ... Much of the earth's surface will become molten.*

**the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. ... Most of humanities efforts will be destroyed.*

11 Seeing then that all these things shall be **dissolved** (destroyed), **what manner of persons** ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, How seriously should you understand and practice your spiritual life.

This is one of the final warnings that Jesus revealed.

*Unpredictable and out of mind for all who fail to walk in the Spirit. **MAT 24:44** Therefore be ye also ready: for in such an hour as ye **think not** (present tense) the Son of man cometh. This is God's warning to his own people, not the unsaved.*

Reality... everyone will eventually face death. Reality... everyone is offered the opportunity to live forever with personal proof.

*Jesus also warns about the surprise arrival of the final deadline. **LUK 12:16** And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: **17** And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? **18** And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. **19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. **20** But God said unto him, **Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee**: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? **21** So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is **not rich** toward God.*

Being ready all the time is the secret the church must learn... eternal life is too great a blessing to risk: that is why it is called overcoming.

*This is the question we must first ask ourselves... Are you ready to meet God today, or are you occupied with other thoughts and desires? **MAT 6:33** But **seek ye first the kingdom of God**, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you. Does daily life reflect this world ending event? There are other duties!*

We have other duties outside of our personal readiness.

*This is the next most important action... care for our family. **EPH 5:25** Husbands, love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church, and gave himself for it; Same goes for children and family elders.*

Then comes the next step.

*This is also important and equally as vital... care for our church. **JOH 13:34** A new **commandment** I give unto you, That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. Love is Godly service.*

Then comes the vital and yet most needed part of our Christian walk.

*This is the proposition you need to offer the unsaved... **MAR 16:15** And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. **16** He that believeth and is baptized shall be **saved**; but he that believeth not shall be damned. Those who pray to receive the Holy Spirit will speak in tongues as they began to do at Pentecost and still do today. They will be empowered to overcome this world with all its problems. God heals the sick, forgives the sins of his own people and keeps them safe until the time of judgement appears. Walk in the Spirit, pray in the Spirit and preach the Spirit... live forever.*

A summary for facing the final deadline in a successful way!

*We are told very clearly that if we manage our salvation on a daily basis according to God's will... we will not need to be judged. **1COR 11:31** For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged.*

Thus, we are ever ready to meet the Lord.