**Rumination 830 (97) for Dec. 27, 2020 by K.C. Ung**

The **T**heme: **THE LAST DAY** [berita-bethel-ung.com](http://www.berita-bethel-ung.com)

The **T**ext: ***Martha saith unto Him, I know that He shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day.* Jn. 11:24**

 *For* ***unto you*** *is born this day…a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.* Lk. 2:11

The **T**hots:

Intro.: **F**our days more is the last day of the year – end of 2020 and beginning of 2021.

 **F**or thousands in the world, today can be their Last **D**ay, never to rise to another **D**awn on earth!

Abortive stillborn, Accidents, Ailments, natural calamities, natural deaths (old and young), fallen victims of Covid\_19, etc. all contribute to this.

How would you face it **if indeed Today is the last day for you**? Consider those who faced it.

**A. HEZEKIAH REQUESTED FOR AN EXTENSION OF LIFE.**

1. The **R**eality of **D**ying is in God’s Hands: II Kgs. 20:1; Isa. 38:1

*In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah …came to him, and said…*

*Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.*

1. Hezekiah’s **R**eluctance to accept God’s **D**irect Will: II Kgs. 20:2, 3; Isa. 38:2, 3

*He turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD…And Hezekiah wept sore.*

1. The **R**esults of God’s **D**oing His Permissive Will:
2. Hezekiah was healed and his life **E**xtended. II Kgs. 20:6

*Behold, I will heal thee… And I will add unto thy days fifteen years.*

1. Hezekiah **E**xposed the treasures in the House of God to Babylon’s representatives. 20:13
2. Later, Babylon was to **R**ob its treasures and **R**aze it to the ground. 20:15-17; II Chr. 36:17-19
3. Hezekiah **M**arried and **M**anasseh was born. 20:21
4. Manasseh would turn out to be a wicked king who would lead Judah into captivity. 20:18; 21:2-18
* Thus, the **R**esults of not accepting God’s Direct Will.
1. **THE FOOL RELIED ON HIS ENJOYMENT OF LIFE.**
2. The **P**arable of the rich fool: *Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee*: Lk. 12:20
3. His **P**resumption: The enjoyment of his accomplishments:

*Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.*

1. His un-**P**reparedness: *then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?*
* He was not **P**repared to meet his God ct. ***P****repare to meet thy God* Amos 4:12

**C. PAUL WAS READY FOR THE ENDING OF HIS LIFE**

1. Death was ever a **R**eal challenge to him when he was alive: Phil. 1:20, 21, 23

*Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.*

*For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain… and to be with Christ; which is far better.*

1. He was **R**eady when he knew he would die: II Tim. 4:6-7

*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*

*I have* ***F****ought a good* ***F****ight, I have* ***F****inished my course, I have kept the* ***F****aith:*

1. He was assured of his **R**eward after death: II Tim. 4:8

*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness.*

**D. JESUS KNEW HE WOULD BE REJECTED AND HIS END WOULD COME.**

1. When Jesus came into the world, He knew He would be Rejec**ted**. Jn. 1:11

*He came unto His own, and His own received Him not.*

1. That He would suffer and be killed was what He Expec**ted.** Mt. 16:21

*From that time forth began Jesus to show unto His disciples, how that He must… suffer…and be killed*

1. But He also knew that on the third day He would be Resurrec**ted**. Mt. 16:21

*That He must go unto Jerusalem, and suffer many things…, be killed, and be raised again the third day.*

* For Him His last day on earth made it possible for a New Day in heaven for all of us.
* May we show our Gratitude to Him on this last Lord’s Day of the year in our Remembrance of Him

 even as we look to the coming day when we shall see Him face to face in Heaven

*For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do show the Lord’s death till He come.* I Cor. 11:26

*Awake, my soul, and with the sun Thy daily stage of duty run;*

*Shake off dull sloth, and joyful rise, To pay thy morning sacrifice.*

*Thy precious time misspent, redeem, Each present day thy last esteem,*

*Improve thy talent with due care; For the great day thyself prepare*

*Direct, control, suggest, this day, All I design, or do, or say,*

 *That all my powers, with all their might, In Thy sole glory may unite.*  Thomas Ken

**REFLECTIONS FOR THE WEEK R. 830 (97)**

1. Four days more is New Year’s Eve. Many churches will hold Watchnight Services,

End-of-year Services, etc. to spend the last hour of the year with God. What are the thoughts that will go through your mind as you reflect on your passing year’s testimony for the Lord?

Is it a year for you to rejoice over or a year for you to be sad about,

or worse, a year to be ashamed of because you have departed from the ways of the Lord?

Probably one event that will stand out most prominently in every one’s mind is the impact of Covid-19 on each individual’s life. Not likely for good, but to what extent it has affected the person to disrupt his movements, his health, his contacts, his peace of mind.

And the question in every one’s head is when or will it ever go away?

For thousands, it had brought in their last days earlier than expected.

For others, like us, it will definite come one day. But when?

But for this week, how would you spend the last day of the year?

Could it be that on this last day, you will be out with the frolicking crowd to wile away the last hour of the year, dancing away in fun and foolery hoping to forget the realities of life, and living or drinking in the last hour into oblivion hoping that any remnant woes of the passing year will just go away for you to welcome in new illusions that will delude you further into another year of repeated failures and disappointments?

How would you spend your last hour of the year?

Or like many of the seniors, too exhausted with the too many last days of past years, just sleep through another night to wake up the next day to welcome it as just any other day and continue living it and the days to follow waiting for yet another last day to come, if God spares them?

One day is just the same as any other day just waiting for their personal last day to come!

Whatever it be, let us all be thankful to our gracious and merciful God Who has

promised to forgive us that we may start fresh again for the new year that is coming in.

*If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins,*

*and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*

*My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.*

*And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:*

*and He is the propitiation for our sins.*

May the last day of this year be meaningful to you whatever stance you take.

 Reckon it with God in your days and you will never regret the last day of whatever year it may be

 or even in relation to your personal life.

 Commit your days to the Lord as the Psalmist did:

 Psa. 37:5 - *Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in Him; and He shall bring it to pass.*

 Pro. 16:3 - *Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.*

**REFLECT**

1. The last day is the time for Reflection:

How we have Fared in the passing year and how we will Face the incoming year.

While we Reflect, let us not Remain in the past.

Like Paul, let us Resolve:

*Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do,*

*forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things*

*which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling*

*of God in Christ Jesus.* Phil. 3:13, 14

How prepared are you if today is indeed your last day on earth?

If you were told, like Hezekiah, to set your things in order,

what are the things you will select to set in order? **REFLECT**.

 **Points To Ponder:** *Only one life, ’twill soon be past,*

 *Only what’s done for Christ will last.* C.T.Studd

**See:** <https://joshuavandermerwe.wordpress.com/2014/01/23/only-one-life-a-poem-by-c-t-studd/>