

## SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT

Review Republican  
1-18-18

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### ARE YOU PREPARED FOR YOUR END?

We sometimes live our lives without thinking and expect good results. Are we paying attention? Sometimes we get so busy we don't have time to think. Are we afraid of the silent moments and time to reflect on our lives?

I read the following story and think you might find it of interest. See what we can learn from this man's life.

A fisherman had planned a special fishing trip for several months. He made out a list of essentials and scratched each item off as he packed. He had his car checked and serviced. All of his appointments were under control. Everything was ready. He even made sure to leave his wife and family well stocked with whatever they might need. The long awaited time finally arrived and he eagerly bid them goodbye, hopped in his car and left.

He arrived at his fishing cabin that evening, got things tidied up and his food in order, set the alarm for 4 AM, and then went to sleep dreaming of the fish he would catch on the morrow.

He arose hurriedly at the first sound of the alarm, quickly ate eggs and bacon, almost gulping the food down in his anxiety to get out on the lake. Just as he was getting into his boat, he made a startling discovery: he had not brought along any bait – the bait box was empty!

Many people prepare to meet God in a similar way.

This is not a new problem. The Israelites were in the same fix. They were living life and forgot about God and His blessings to them. They were out of control and living in a way that did not please God. Listen to their story:

Amos 4:6-13 (NASB)

6 "But I gave you also cleanness of teeth in all your cities and lack of bread in all your places, yet you have not returned to Me," declares the LORD. 7 "And furthermore, I withheld the rain from you while there were still three months until harvest. Then I would send rain on one city and on another city I would not send rain; one part would be rained on, while the part not rained on would dry up. 8 "So two or three cities would stagger to another city to drink water, but

would not be satisfied; yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD. 10 “I sent a plague among you after the manner of Egypt; I slew your young men by the sword along with your captured horses, and I made the stench of your camp rise up in your nostrils; 11 “I overthrew you as God overthrew Sodom and Gomorrah, yet you have not returned to Me,” declares the LORD. 12 “Therefore, thus I will do to you, O Israel; prepare to meet your God, O Israel.” 13 For behold, He who forms mountains and creates the wind and declares to man what are His thoughts, He who makes dawn into darkness and treads on the high places of the earth, The LORD God of hosts is His name.

God wants to bless us, but we don't take the time to even think about Him. Have you found yourself in that place? God provides for us every day, but are we thankful? When was the last time you took the time to thank Him for your food before you ate it? We rush through McDonalds and get back to our busy life while we consume the food we just picked up. Was there a prayer for that food and thankfulness in your heart and mind to the ones who provided it?

I am thankful to God for the warm spell we just had and His melting off the snow. It was nice to turn off the space heaters and let the furnace keep the house warm. I am thankful for those who delivered the gas, those who installed the furnace and the controls on the wall that keep everything comfortable in our home. I am also thankful for that home and my wonderful wife that I share it with. We are blessed and thankful to God for His care. How about you? Have you told Him lately that you appreciate His blessings in your life?

The Israelites had clean teeth because they didn't have anything to eat. Even the King didn't have bread to eat, which was a must at any meal. God had stopped the rain and they were having trouble finding water to drink. Times were hard. Still, they didn't turn to God. Why is mankind so slow to pick up on the real problem?

Is our nation in trouble? I think you know the answer to that one. Maybe we need to get back to God and bow to our Maker. We need to show Him the respect and fear that is due Him. He would love to hear from you. Do you have the time? Are God and His Word important to you?

Does He have to send disease and a plague to get our attention? Wouldn't it be better to turn to Him now and get right with Him? Do we need another war that will take our young men and women away from us? Will they be slain to satisfy our ego?

God told Israel "Prepare to meet your God". Maybe He wants the same from us. What do you think?

So What Shall We Do? We sometimes are so involved living we forget that there is a God who provides us with life and all that we have. Will we take the time to be thankful and honor the One who provides for us? Will you be in church this next Sunday declaring your faithfulness and gratitude to our Maker?

Are you prepared for your end? Believe it or not, we are all going to die. The only one who will not die are the followers of Christ that are his when he returns to our planet. What does God think of your relationship with Him? Is that important to you? I sure hope so, because without that relationship with God and His Son you are destined to eternal death. With that relationship you are destined for eternal life in His coming kingdom. Come, Lord Jesus.

Jesus is the bread of life. We need to feast on him and draw near to His God and our God. The fisherman in our story today didn't bring anything to eat for the fish. You aren't going to catch many fish without bait. You are also not going to get right without God, without giving Him time in your life. Now that is something to think about.

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