

The MIDNIGHT Hour



I saw an unforgettable incident one night while I was an Air Force firefighter on base. At about midnight a large jet rolled onto the runway, warming up its engines. But there seemed to be some trouble, because after a little while the pilot taxied the aircraft off the runway and waited for a short time before returning.

No one noticed the fuel leaking between the engines as the jet started to take off down the runway. It was just leaving the ground when one engine burst into flames. The aircraft crashed four miles away, exploding through the treetops in a disaster that instantly killed everyone onboard.

Just as one day ends and another begins – like the time when this crash occurred – midnight also speaks of when this life ends and eternity begins. The Bible says, “It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Why judgment? Because “all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23). Are you ready to be judged by your Creator? Like the airmen, you may be young and so think that it doesn’t matter yet – but it does!

Acts 16:25-31 tells about two Christians, Paul and Silas, who were imprisoned for their faith. At midnight they prayed and sang to God while the other prisoners were listening. Suddenly a great

earthquake shook the prison, opening all the doors and unlocking all the chains. Supposing everyone had escaped, the jailor was about to kill himself. But after Paul assured him that all the prisoners were still there, the jailor asked Paul and Silas, “What must I do to be saved?” They replied, “Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved.”

If the jailor had killed himself it would have been a midnight hour of death and eternal misery – without God or hope. Instead, it was one of salvation and a new life in Christ!

What about you? Consider these Bible verses:

- “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life” (John 3:16).
- “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord” (Romans 6:23).
- “This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, of whom I [Paul] am chief” (1 Timothy 1:15).

Have you trusted the Lord Jesus Christ to be your Savior? He took your penalty when He hung on the cross (1 Peter 2:24) and now He is offering a full pardon to you. Will you accept it?

The Bible speaks of another “midnight” when Christ will come for all believers, taking them to Himself (1 Thessalonians 4:16). The Bible’s last book, Revelation, reveals the judgment that will come on all those who do not accept His great pardon and are therefore left behind when He comes for His people.

The young men killed in that horrible crash had no choice once the aircraft was in flames. Neither will you if the grave finds you unprepared. Nor will there be a chance to make a decision for Christ even if you are alive when the Lord Jesus comes to take all believers to heaven.

Don’t wait, because then it will be too late. The time to prepare for your “midnight hour” is now! “Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation” (2 Corinthians 6:2).

— *C. Darling*

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