

Being Different in 2016

I know that 2016 has started and is already nearly 4 months old. Many of us are excited for all the new year hold. It is a new year, when we have plans and goals. Some of us are completing our studies, others want to get married or start a family.

The fact is each and every one of us have some plan, something we want to accomplish in 2016 and that is good.

We all have goals BUT what is this was the year that Jesus Christ came back to earth. What is the rapture happens in 2016 – Are you ready?

I am not trying to rain on your parade and preaching doom and gloom, but what if Jesus came to fetch His church in 2016 or you die in 2016 – would you be ready to meet Him?

What would you do different?

Let us imagine for a moment that Jesus told you personally, that He would come to rapture His church on the 30th June 2016, what changes would you make to your lifestyle, your prayer life, your walk with God?

What would you do with your time?

Would you partying and spend as much as you can?

Will you do all the things you wanted to do in your life?

Or would you clean up your life?

Go to church, read your Bible more, pray more, love your wife/husband/children more.

What would you change and what would you do if you knew you have limited time before meeting with God?

Death is the default

The truth is that as each year closes and a new year come along, the return of Jesus Christ is coming closer and closer. Also as each year passes, each and every one of us are getting older, and older.

It is a fact that that about 300,000 people die each day world-wide, that is 3,5 die per second. What would happen if your were next? What would you change about your life?

It is a fact that statistically 100/100 people die, there are no exceptions. Death is a sure thing, your are 5 heart beats away from eternity.

I am sorry to tell you this but one day, each of us will die or during one year of your life, Jesus WILL return.

ARE YOU READY?

How to be ready

I asked myself the question, what I think that I or any other person would need to do to be ready to meet with the Lord, whether I die or should the Rapture happen.

Accept Jesus as your Saviour

I am sure of us here today know that in order to be part of the rapture or to go to heaven you need to be born again.

John 3:3 *"Jesus answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."*

So unless there was a time and place where you asked Jesus to come into your heart and be your Lord and Saviour, you are not ready!

The problem is our sin, our sin separates us from God – **Isaiah 59:1-3,**

"¹ Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, That it cannot save; Nor His ear heavy, That it cannot hear. ² But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear. ³ For your hands are defiled with blood, And your fingers with iniquity; Your lips have spoken lies, Your tongue has muttered perversity."

You will remember once Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, what did they do? They hid themselves. Sin, Your sins, our sins, have separated us from God and the only way back to God is through Jesus Christ.

The Bible says that we are all sinners, **Romans 3:23-26** *"³ for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, ²⁴ being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, ²⁵ whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, ²⁶ to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus."*

The Bible also says that the JUST payment for our sins is death, **Romans 6:23,** *"²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

Each of us will die, and when we die we will appear before God to give a full account of our lives.

Hebrews 9:26-28 *"²⁶ He then would have had to suffer often since the foundation of the world; but now, once at the end of the ages, He has appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. ²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many. To those who eagerly wait for Him He will appear a second time, apart from sin, for salvation."*

Matthew 12:35-37 *"³⁵A good man out of the good treasure of his heart^(a) brings forth good things, and an evil man out of the evil treasure brings forth evil things. ³⁶But I say to you that for every idle word men may speak, they will give account of it in the day of judgment. ³⁷For by your words you will be justified, and by your words you will be condemned."*

Romans 12:12-13 *"¹²So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. ¹³Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather resolve this, not to put a stumbling block or a cause to fall in our brother's way."*

Spring cleaning

The next thing I would do is clean up my act, I will start spring cleaning my life. Get rid of bias against all people, I will stop judging people according to my standards and let God sort them out while I pray for them.

I would forgive everyone who I have anything against and who has anything against me. And I will live in total forgiveness, to all people, all the time no matter what they do.

I would start to live my life for Christ flat out, striving to become the New Creation that Jesus paid for me to be (**2 Corinthians 5:17**)

And I will live by the Fruits of the Spirit, **Galatians 5:22-26**

"²²But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, ²³gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law.²⁴And those who are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. ²⁵If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit. ²⁶Let us not become conceited, provoking one another, envying one another."

I will do my best with God, the Holy Spirit's help to live in peace with everyone, sort my life out, all the niggles, all the anger, resentment, bias etcetera, because I know that when you die I, and so will you, will appear before God to give an account of my life and my actions.

I will live for God like never before

Now that my life is sort out and I am living according to Gods Word, I will work for God like never before, telling everyone about Jesus Christ and getting them to accept Him as their personal saviour. Obviously I will read my Bible, pray and attend church which is good to keep my hear focused and humble so that I can hear his guidance as I work for Him.

But heaven and Hell is filled with the souls of men and women who made their choices in life and sadly they are where they are because of their choices.

Now on earth there are many people who have or have no made their choice and I want to tell them, I want to help them to make the right choice, which is and always will be Jesus Christ. He alone is our Saviour, He alone is worthy to take away our sins.

I do not know if you know this, but Hell is a very real place and also and very, very bad place. You do not want your worst enemy to go there. No one in all creation, no matter how bad they are, deserves Hell and neither do you. We all deserve Heaven because Jesus Christ paid the FULL PRICE for all of us to live and be with Him in Heaven.

Conclusion

There are the things that I would do and am doing. What are you going to do. Will you continue living your life as is and end up in a Christless eternity or will you submit totally and completely to God.

Religion with NEVER get you to heaven, it is ALL about a relationship with Jesus Christ, Paul in the book of Romans chapter

12 gives the way to walk as a Christ, so let me close with his word, his recommendations on how to live as a Christian.

Romans 12:9-21 *⁹Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another; ¹¹not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹²rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. ¹⁴Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse. ¹⁵Rejoice with those who rejoice, and weep with those who weep. ¹⁶Be of the same mind toward one another. Do not set your mind on high things, but associate with the humble. Do not be wise in your own opinion. ¹⁷Repay no one evil for evil. Have regard for good things in the sight of all men. ¹⁸If it is possible, as much as depends on you, live peaceably with all men. ¹⁹Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "Vengeance is Mine, I will repay,"^[a] says the Lord. ²⁰Therefore "If your enemy is hungry, feed him; If he is thirsty, give him a drink; For in so doing you will heap coals of fire on his head."²¹Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good."*