

The Lakeview Lamp

"Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path." - Psalm 119:105

April 20, 2008

No Warning!

Jarrood Jacobs

Friday morning around 4:30, most of us woke up to the earth trembling. This earthquake measured 5.2 on the Richter scale, and certainly got the attention of folks for miles around. As the newscasters talked and reported the "latest", one repeated theme stuck out in my mind. Put simply, all news people made the comment that no one knew it was going to happen. At this point in time, while we can predict tornadoes, hurricanes, and numerous other weather emergencies, man does not have the technology necessary for predicting earthquakes. Therefore, there was no warning signal used to prepare folks for the earthquake we experienced Friday morning.

In fact, earlier this year, a news report ran that talked about the fact that the "big one" (earthquake) had not happened, but that we are "due" for one. All seismologists and folks in that field of study say that the only thing we can do at the moment is be prepared, and stay ready for earthquakes, because they are unpredictable.

The events of Friday morning caused me to think. You know, the end of the world is comparable to that earthquake — no one can predict when it will be. Yes, there have been those who have tried to predict when earthquakes will occur. I remember one man predicted a great earthquake in 1986. It never happened. So also, there are those who have predicted the date of the end of the world! To the time of this writing, they have all been wrong! I suppose the only way we could accurately predict the end of the world is to just say it can happen any day, and be prepared every day!

Though earthquakes can be scary and unsettling, the worst an earthquake can do is tear up things, or take physical life (**Matt. 10:28**). What ought to concern us even more is the unpredictable final day of this world, wherein all people will be judged and go to an eternal reward.

Just as an earthquake is unpredictable, so no one knows when this earth-life will end. Jesus said, *"But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only"* (**Matt. 24:36**). Peter wrote to the scattered Christians, reminding them, *"But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up"* (**II Pet. 3:10**). A similar point is made by the apostle Paul when he wrote to the Thessalonians (**I Thess. 5:2-3**). Such passages as these are clear in teaching us that we do not know when the world will end. Just as an earthquake is unpredictable; just as when the thief might arrive is unpredictable (*"If the goodman of the house had known in what watch the thief would come, he would have watched, and would not have suffered his house to be broken up"*, **Matt. 24:43**); so also, the end of this world is unpredictable.

Seeing that the end of the world is an event we cannot predict, what can we do? The only thing we can do is prepare for it. Jesus spoke to His disciples, and told them, *"Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh"* (**Matt. 25:13, 24:44**, etc.).

This theme is repeated throughout the New Testament as well. To hear some folks talk about the end of time, we might be fooled into thinking that Jesus has left "clues" or "signs" on almost every page of the Bible! Yet, this is not the case. Just as there is no warning for earthquakes, so also, there is no warning when

it comes to that last day, the day of Judgment, where folks will go to their eternal homes, either Heaven or Hell.

How can we prepare for the end of the world? We begin this preparation through hearing the gospel (**Acts 2:22**), then believing on Christ (**Rom. 10:17; Jn. 8:24**), repenting of past sins (**Lk. 13:3**), confessing Christ as God's Son (**Rom. 10:10**), and being baptized for the remission of sins (**Acts 2:38**). This was what the converts in the first century did (**Acts 2-19**), and this is what we must do today if we wish to be saved.

Is this the sum total of our preparation? No! We must then be faithful to the Lord (**Rev. 2:10**). We must live faithfully for Him every day, because each day that passes brings us closer to that last day (**Rom. 13:11**). We do not have a lease on life, nor are we given a "warning" signal before this earth is destroyed. Therefore let us remember "*now is the day of salvation*" (**II Cor. 6:2**), and be prepared for the day of Judgment.

“Who can speak of the mighty deeds of the LORD, or can show forth all His praise?” – Psalm 106:2

News and Notes

The **elders and deacons meet** today at 5:15pm.

There will be a **singing at the Stubblefield's** next Sunday after morning worship. They will furnish sandwiches, so bring chips, drinks, and desserts.

Metty Fain remains in Highland Manor Nursing Home; Room B2; 215 Highland Circle Dr; Portland, TN 37148.

Katie Greene has a new phone number. It is 829-2024.

Estelle Hayes is having problems with her legs but still plans to be here.

Joyce Werner is still recovering from her fall several weeks ago.

Ame White is still recovering from her throat surgery.

Out of town, Visiting: None known.

New Reports from men we support: **Ron Chaffin** (South Africa), **Allen Malone** (Indonesia).

Note – If you have any news for the bulletin (out of town, sick, etc.), then please let me know. I will be printing it most weeks on Saturday night, so please get the news to me by then. Thanks! – Troy

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"Rejoice always; pray without ceasing; in everything give thanks" (1 Thes 5:16-18).