

An Urgent Message from God

By Cindy Buntin

*“Even now,” declares the Lord,
“return to me with all your heart, with
fasting and weeping and mourning.” Joel 2:12*

In our verse this week, God is calling His people back to Him. There is a sense of urgency in “even now.” The NLT Bible translation reads *“Turn to me now, while there is time.”* God wants us to give Him our all. This includes our hearts, our minds, our schedules, our time, and our resources. Have you given God all of your heart? Have you surrendered your heart, your mind, your schedule, your time, and your resources to God? If not, what are you waiting for? Do you sense the urgency in God’s request? If you have surrendered to Christ, are you urging others to surrender while there is still time?

God created each of us with a mortal body, which means our time here on earth is limited. Our mortality rate is 100 percent. God is the only one who knows how long each of us will live on this earth. But there is good news: God also created us with an eternal soul, so even though our bodies will die, our souls will live forever.

The Bible describes the only two possible destinations for us when we leave this world - Heaven or Hell. Where we spend eternity is dependent on the choice we make while we are living on this earth: to surrender to Christ or to reject Him. If you choose to surrender your life to Christ, you will gain eternal life and live in the presence of God forever (Heaven). If you choose to reject Christ, you will spend eternity separated from God forever (Hell). Your decision to surrender to Christ or to reject Him is THE most important decision you will make in life!

None of us like to hear sermons that talk about Hell, but the Bible confirms its existence and gives us a description of what it is like. Matthew 8:12 says *the subjects of the kingdom will be thrown outside, into the darkness, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.* Revelation 20:15 says *If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.* Revelation 20:10 states *They will be tormented day and night forever and ever.* We learn from Romans 14:12 that we all will give account of ourselves to God.

The Bible also gives us a glimpse of what Heaven will be like. *“Now the dwelling of God is with men, and He will live with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”*
Revelation 21:3-4

God is light, love, peace, salvation, and joy. If you choose to reject Christ while you are living on Earth, that separation will last for eternity. To be separated from God means you will be in the absence of light, which is darkness; the absence of love, which is hate; the

absence of peace, which is turmoil; the absence of salvation, which is condemnation; and the absence of joy, which is sorrow.

My friend, do you sense the urgency in God's words yet? I pray that your name is written in the Book of Life. Today could be your last day on Earth. Are you ready to face Jesus? If you have not chosen to surrender your life to Christ, you have rejected Him. I implore you to accept Christ and surrender your heart to Him today.* If you have surrendered your heart to Christ, I urge you to share the good news of Jesus' salvation with those around you, while there is still time.

*If you would like more information on what it means to surrender your life to Christ, please click on this link to our website www.hopeinthelord.org. And then click on the link "Is Christ YOUR Savior?" If you have made a decision to follow Christ and would like to share it, I would love to hear from you at cindy@hopeinthelord.org.

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