

THINK ABOUT YOUR LIFE

There are several kinds of flowers in our world. Flowers are beautiful and charming. We arrange flowers for weddings, funerals, and special occasions.

On Valentine's Day, Mother's Day and Father's Day, many people send flowers to their loved ones. A florist is trained to arrange flowers for certain occasions. People who are familiar with the keeping and arranging of flowers would agree that flowers, like our lives, do not last very long.

When we moved to Zimbabwe to do mission work, we rented a house in a locality called Westgate. We went to several places when we were looking for a place to rent, but one particular house we found in Westgate was very suitable and beautiful. We were impressed with the house and the surroundings. There were several kinds of flowers planted in the garden. Knowing that my wife loves flowers, we agreed to rent that house. My wife often arranges flowers in a vase for our dining room table. One morning after our devotion she took a picture of her Bible and the flowers she arranged. It was very beautiful. We all talked about the arrangement and the beauty of the flowers. Three days later some of the flowers began to wilt, and I remembered the words of Job 14:1-2, "Man who is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue." We come forth like a flower, and we fade away. This should remind us that we are only here for a short time.

In Psalm 103:15-16 the Psalmist said, "As for man his days are like grass: As a flower of the field so he flourishes for the wind passes over it and it is gone. And its place remembers it no more, but the mercy of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear Him and His righteousness to generations." When death calls, we will be gone. Perhaps; that is why Ecclesiastes said, "Remember thy creator in the days of your youth." We are created for a purpose, namely, to serve God. (Ecclesiastes 12:12-13). We are to fear God and keep His commandments. Peter, quoting from Isaiah 40:6-8, indicated that "All flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, and its flower falls away. But the word of the Lord endures forever." (I Peter 1:24-25). If the word of God endures forever, should we not turn to the word of God for our spiritual and physical needs? All our glory is as the flower of grass. It will wither, and its flowers fall away. We will pass away in a brief time.

Several passages in the Bible declare plainly that we will soon pass away. In James 4: 13-14, James is asking us a very important question, "For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away." We have no promise of tomorrow. Life is uncertain, fragile, and brief. We are not even sure if we will see the next day. What is your life? The Psalmist said, "We finish our years like a sigh. The days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years, yet

their boast is only labor and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we flyaway." (Psalms 90:9b-10). We are told in this very passage that our life will soon be cut off, and we will fly away.

Our life is in the hands of the Lord. Remember that God can call us home at any second, minute, hour, day, month or year. Knowing how brief and delicate our lives are, it is up to each and everyone to decide his or her destiny. Where will you spend eternity? Think about your life. There is only heaven and hell (Matthew 25:31-46). The decision is yours.

The Lord is waiting to save you. He demands that we obey Him by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17; I Corinthians 15:1-4; Acts 1:22-37), by having faith that Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24; Mark 16: 15-16; Hebrews 11:6), by repenting of your sins (Acts 2:37-38; 17:30-33; Galatians 5:19-21; Luke 13:3), by confessing that Jesus is the Son of God (Romans 10:9-10; Acts 8:26-40; Matthew 10:32-33; 16:13-16), by being baptized into Christ (Ephesians 4:4-6; Acts 2:38-41; Galatians 3:27; I Peter 3:21; Acts 8:36-38; Mark 16:15-16), and by living faithfully and serving Him until the end (Revelation 2:10; II Timothy 4:8-12).

This is the Lord's invitation to everyone who is not a child of God. We are extending this invitation to everyone who will read this tract. Come to Jesus before it is too late. Think about your life, it is like a flower, it will flourish for a while and then it will wither. What are you doing with your life? Where will you spend eternity?

Tillit S. Teddlie poses these heart-searching questions and I would like you to make a decision about your life after examining your life in the light of the following words:

*Someday you'll stand at the bar on high,
Someday your record you'll see;
Someday you'll answer the question of life.
What will your answer be?*

*Sadly you'll stand, if you're unprepared,
Trembling, you'll fall on your knee;
Facing the sentence of life or of death,
What will that sentence be?*

*Now is the time to prepare, my friend,
Make your soul spotless and free;
Washed in the blood of the crucified one,
He will your answer be.*

*What will it be? What will it be?
Where will you spend your eternity?
What will it be? O what will it be?
What will your answer be?*

Dear friends and loved ones, what will your answer be? Think about your life and where you will spend eternity. Jesus is waiting to welcome you home (John 14:1-6). Are you willing to come to Jesus? Come and delay no more! (Matthew 11:28-30). Harden not your heart, for Jesus is willing to receive you (Hebrews 3:7-13).

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by Leonard Amanatey

*In Honor of His Wife, Rudo and
Sons - Richard and Jonathan*