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A Study Of Last Things

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A STUDY OF LAST THINGS

Today: Dec. 31st. LAST day of '72. Most can't help reflecting, reminising, remembering and recounting '72 and taking stock of a year lived. In 13 hrs. will have spent another: 12 months, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 605,600 seconds in '72.

Pertinent question: How did my year go?


IN SORROWS, WE HAD OUR DIVINE HELP

Expressed well in little poem:
"The way is dark, my Father! Cloud on cloud...is gathering thickly o'er my head, and loud The thunder roars above me. See, I stand Like one bewildered! Father, take my hand, And through the gloom Lead safely home.....Thy child.

The way is long, my Father, and my soul Longs for the rest and quiet of the goal; While yet I journey through this weary land, Keep me from wandering, Father take my hand, Quickly and straight Lead to Heaven's gate.......
Thy child.

The path is rough, my Father! Many a thorn Has pierced me, and my weary feet, all torn, And bleeding, mark the way, yet Thy command Bids me press forward. Father take my hand Then safe and blest..lead to rest...Thy child.

The Cross is heavy Father! I have born It long and still do bear it. Let my worn And fainting spirit rise to that blest land Where crowns are given. Father, take my hand And reaching down..lead to the crown..THY CHILD

(Dutton, p. 86-87.)

This being the LAST of the year, reminds us of a number of last things mentioned in the Bible.
Jesus would have us look at the LAST WORDS of the doomed. Luke 16:19-31*

Rich man: sumptuously. selfish. Calloused. died
Poor man: beggar. starving. ill. rejected. died

IN THE INTERMEDIATE WORLD: awaiting judgment!

Rich man spoke 80 last words.

v. 24 Spoke 31. Have mercy...send L...torment
v. 27-28 Spoke 34. Send L. 5 Bros. lest the
v. 30 Spoke 15. One from dead—they repent.

Divine wisdom: Wont hear God's Prophets, why
hear God's Resurrected?????

Note: Sinner the beggar. Beggar the saint!

QUESTION: If you went to meet your MAKER today,
what your LAST WORDS BE???

1. Like Paul's: II Tim. 4:7-8. Wonderful!

ILL. 2. Like LITTLE BOY praying:

Night: "If I should die before I wake......
If I should die....................

SCRAMBLED OUT OF BEDROOM..."back soon."

Mother:"What's the matter with you??????

Boy:" I couldn't finish...because I had to
do something. I stood all of brother's
wooden soldiers on their HEADS to see
how mad he'd get in the morning....and
If I should die before I wake....well.....I
wouldn't want him to find his soldiers that way.
So I just straightened it all out!!!!

How many of us could pray, "If I should die
before I wake—I pray the Lord my soul to take?"

Acts 2:38

Any sins need forgiven? Any wrongs need righting?
Any apologies need to be made? Jas. 5:16.
I. BIBLE TELLS US WE ARE LIVING IN THE LAST DAYS!

A. This is when Jesus speaks. Heb. 1:1-2.
B. This is what Peter termed the Gospel Age. Acts 2:15-23.* Great Commission days. Mk. 16:
C. Paul identified his days as part of the last days. II Tim. 3:1-12.*
D. The LAST DAYS is the key to the Unpardonable Sin. Matt. 12:30-33.

II. BIBLE TELLS US WE ARE LIVING TOWARD THE LAST DAY.

C. Paul described the last day vividly:
   1. Last visit of Jesus. I Thess. 4:13-16a.*
   2. Last trumpet sound-angelic voice. 16b.

III. JESUS LOVINGLY REMINDS US OF THE LAST STATE OF MAN

   1. REWARD: I Cor. 15:50-58 & 24-26.* L.enemy
      NO: Hunger, thirst, pain, sorrow, darkness, night, fear, dread, sin, no crying nor dying...there.
      FULLNESS OF: joy, rest from weary labors, service to God, perfect knowledge, perfect beauty & safety, happy reunion with loved ones, and the blessing of being with Jesus.
      NICE: To stop here! Put everyone in this category.
      But...this is not the whole nor true story.

     Second death. Not necessary!