

# The Reflector

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## TIME IS RUNNING OUT!

Have you ever seriously thought about the fact that our time on earth is quickly running out? As each day passes there is one less day between you and the time of your death. James 4:13-18 says that life is *"like a vapor, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."* Isaac said in Genesis 27:2 the following: *"...Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death."* It is also true that as each day passes, there is one less day between us and the time of Christ's return. 2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 3:10 teaches us that the *"day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night."* No one knows therefore how much time he or she has left upon this earth. The question to you and me is this: Are we using our time on earth wisely? Are we using this lifetime, of which we only have one, to prepare ourselves for our eternal destiny? Listen to what Paul writes in Ephesians 5:15-17: *"See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, redeeming the time, because the days are evil. Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the will of the Lord is."* Paul of course is teaching us to use our time wisely because we do not know what will happen from one day to the next. Proverbs 27:1 says this: *"Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth."* We need to understand therefore what God's will is and do it each day of our lives. Jesus said in Matthew 7:21 the following: *"Not everyone that saith unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven."*

### ANSWERS TO LAST MONTH'S BIBLE QUESTIONS:

The city of Jericho was overthrown by God when Joshua and the Israelites obeyed God by marching round the city thirteen times, sounding the trumpets, and giving a loud shout by the people of God. (Joshua 6)

Caiaphas was the high priest who ruled at the time of Jesus' death. (Matthew 26:57)

### QUESTIONS FOR THIS MONTH:

What was the name of the king who ruled over one hundred twenty-seven provinces and whose palace was located at Shushan? (What nations did he rule over primarily and who was his queen that was disposed of and who replaced her?)

Who was the first person to see Jesus after He was raised from the dead? (What miracle had Jesus performed on this person?)

### THE REAL PURPOSE OF MIRACLES!

Do you know what the real purpose of miracles was? Were miracles ever performed simply for the sake of making someone feel better? The answer to the second question is "NO." While it is certainly true that many people were healed by the miracles performed by both Jesus and the apostles, they were never healed simply for the sake of making them well. The answer to the first question is **"that miracles were performed in order to prove or confirm something; either to prove that Jesus was the Son of God, and that He had come from God, or that the message being preached by the apostles was from God as well."** For example consider what Nicodemus said to Jesus in John 3:2: **"...*Rabbi, we know that thou art a teacher come from God: for no man can do these miracles that thou doest, except God be with Him.*"** When Jesus sent the apostles on the Great Commission in Mark 16:15-20, we read the following statement in verse 20: **"*And they went forth, and preached everywhere, the Lord working with them, and confirming the word with signs following.*"** Read also Acts 14:1-3 and Hebrews 2:1-4 for additional confirmation of this truth. The apostle John even says the reason that he wrote down the miracles that Jesus did was that people might know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the living God. (John 20:30-31)

## THE PRAYER OF CYRUS BROWN!

*"The proper way for man to pray," said Deacon Lemuel Keyes,  
"And the only proper attitude, is down upon his knees."*

*"No, I should say the way to pray," said Reverend Doctor Wise,  
"Is standing straight with outstretched arms and rapt and  
upturned eyes."*

*"Oh, no no no," said Elder Slow, "Such posture is too proud,  
A man should pray with eyes fast-closed and head contritely  
bowed."*

*"It seems to me his hands should be austere-ly clasped in front  
With both thumbs pointing toward the ground," said Reverend  
Doctor Blunt.*

*"Last year I fell in Hidgeskin's well headfirst," said Cyrus Brown,  
"With both my heels a-stickin' up and my head a-pointin' down."*

*"And I made a prayer right then and there, the best prayer I ever  
prayed,  
The prayingest prayer I ever prayed, a-standin' on my head."*

The Bible does not give a set way to pray as far as posture is concerned. But the Bible does teach us to ***"Pray without ceasing. In everything give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you."*** (1<sup>st</sup> Thessalonians 5:17-18) Jesus said in Luke 18:1 that men ***"ought always to pray, and not to faint."*** And so prayer should be an important part of our relationship with God. Paul said that through prayer we express ***"our heart's desire to God."*** (Romans 10:1) A truly meaningful relationship with God cannot exist without regular prayer to God and without our reading God's word faithfully. (Acts 17:11) If your relationship with the Lord is not as close as you would like it to be, then this is the first place to look. Prayer, Bible study, and consistent worship of God all help us to be strong and devoted servants of God!