

'THE END? NO, NOT NOW!'

'I cannot believe that we are already in the month of November, and that this year will end in less than fifty days. Time is running too fast nowadays. It seems there are less than twenty-four hours in a day now. Before you realize it, we will be old, die and become history.'

These are the words of a friend of mine. Yes, he is right, time seems to be running faster now than ever before, and so are we moving closer to the end of our sojourn here on earth. But we hate to think about the end. A young person thinks he is young, life is good and he has endless years ahead. An older person thinks he is strong and healthy, so the end is many years away, so why think about it now? 'Let me live the way I want and enjoy all I can now, I will think about the end later,' most people will say.

But the fact of life is that nobody knows when his or her end will be. Death, like an adage says, is a bad reaper, often reaping unripe fruits on the field and leaving ripe ones behind. Often he takes babies, children and young people, leaving the older folks behind. So don't be deceived, we are not given the privilege to know when our end will come.

Two teenage friends were driving to another friend's house. One of them was a Christian and the other was not. The Christian asked his friend if he had thought about his end and where he was going to spend eternity. His friend was upset and told him that at nineteen, he had better things to think about than eternity. He concluded that when he is over seventy, then he probably would give the issue a thought.

A few minutes later, two other teenagers sped past them on a motorcycle. Then just about ten minutes later, they arrived at an accident scene. To their amazement, the two young men who had sped past them a few minutes earlier, full of life and energy, were lying by the roadside, writhing in pain. They had been thrown off their motorcycle, badly battered and bruised.

On leaving the accident scene, the two friends remained silent for a while, then, the non-Christian teenager told his Christian friend: 'You are right, one does not have to be seventy before thinking of eternity. Those two boys could have been killed in that wreck and that would have been their end, and it can happen to anybody.' Soberly, he asked his Christian friend to tell him more about eternity. The young man gladly told his friend that death is the end of our physical existence on the earth, and that after that we face eternity in heaven with God or in hell (a place of torment) with the devil. (Luke 16:19-31)

Further, he explained to his friend how he could be born again by confessing with his mouth the Lordship of Jesus, and believing on Him with his heart, according to Romans 10:9-10. By so doing, he told his friend, he would be saved and have the assurance of eternity of peace with God and the angels in heaven. Hearing this, the non-Christian told his friend he was ready to be saved right away, and his friend led him in praying the prayer of salvation right inside the car.

Dear friend, do you realize that none of us will live here forever? Have you considered your end and where you will spend eternity? Why not take a wise decision like the young man in this story? Confess

with your mouth that Jesus is Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead. You will be saved, and eternity of peace is awaiting you. You can take the decision now and pray to God using your own words or as follows:

Dear God, I thank you for the opportunity to be alive today, to think about my end and eternity. I confess with my mouth that Jesus is Lord, and I believe with my heart that you raised Him from the dead. I ask that you forgive all my sins and save me. Help me to live a new life, so that I will enjoy eternity with you in heaven, in Jesus' name I pray, Amen.