



February 25, 2007

Midlife Crisis

Near where I live there used to be a billboard of a Harley Davidson motorcycle with the amount of \$15,000 in large white letter below it. The caption at the bottom of the sign read, "The price of a midlife crisis". I forget what the advertisement was for but I used to think that was funny as I knew several people who, at the late 40's or early 50's, actually purchased Harleys and all the riding gear. They also made sure that they had no visible gray hair and began dressing more "youthful". There is nothing wrong with all that if your real priorities in life are correct, but sometimes this is a signal that something is wrong. What is usually wrong is that a person realizes that they are aging and feel as though life has slipped by and now there is little or no time to recapture the "good old days". Some lose sight of everything and make drastic decisions that have very negative effects on their families, friends and themselves. Time is a commodity that we must learn to use wisely. Paul reminds us of the passage of time and the need to use it wisely. "See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, Redeeming the time, because the days are evil." (**Eph 5.15-16**). James also reminds us of the brevity of life when he states, "**For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.**" (**Jas 4.14**). Midlife is a time when a person may think that they have not made any significant contribution to the world, or, that they have not done enough to be remembered when they are no longer on the earth. All of these things can be viewed negatively but they can also be used as a positive force for change in our lives. During midlife some have taken it upon themselves to undertake an education or change careers for something that has more personal meaning to them. Unfortunately it is the first time that some will realize that their life will someday come to an end and fills the mind with dread. Things do not have to be that way. There are many who do not live to see midlife. Disease and accident claim the lives of both the young and the old indiscriminately. If we are confronted with the fact that we are mortal there are some things that may ease the tension and point us in a better direction.

Contents of this article is intended for teaching purposes. Permission is granted for unlimited use. If quotations are used in another publication a credit to tlcibiblical.com should be included. Printed copies must include the tlcibiblical.com banner. TLC

The Bible reveals that we are immortal. We have a soul that will live throughout eternity. There are many opinions as to where or how that soul will live once the earthly portion of our existence ends and it is this that we need to make some decisions about. The scriptures reveal that we will die and stand in judgment before God (**Heb 9.27**). We have to decide if we believe that or not. Uncertainty may stand in the way of coming to a conclusion but for those who accept the Bible as God's inspired word we work at preparing for the time when we will pass on. If we accept this fact then we are relieved to find that God has left us His word to guide us toward living a life that is acceptable to him. We find in the Bible that God is indeed mindful of man to the point that we were created only a little lower than the angels and the earth has been placed in our care (**Psm 8**). We also find that God is mindful of the passing of those who are faithful to him. "**Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.**" (**Psm 116.15**). We also find that God has revealed himself to us so that we need not fear but be prepared to dwell with him. Moses told the Israelites, "The secret things belong unto the LORD our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law." (**Deut 29.29**). Solomon concluded that it is our duty to remember our creator. "**Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.**" (**Eccl 12.13-14**). With this view in mind we can embrace life knowing that there is a better place that we can go as Christ told his disciples (**John 14.1-3**). To reject this is a crisis that we will not be able to escape.

TLC