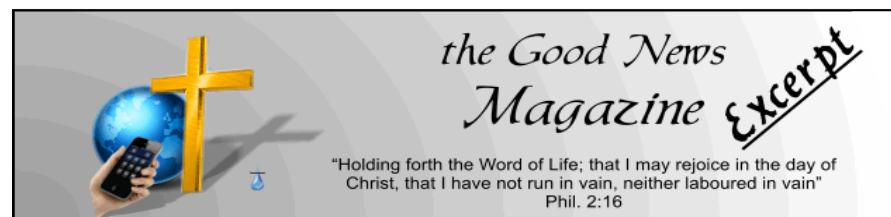


the mere professor's conduct shows that his lamp is going out. Let's watch therefore and attend to the business of our souls.

Finally, let's not be fooled or be foolish concerning our heart's state. Let's ask ourselves, do we have enough oil to last long like the five wise virgins? Again I say, don't be fooled. Be ready for our King will come when we least expect it!

[~] [~]

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Don't Be Fooled

by Justus Ondieki #63394

(part 2 of 2

[part 1 is #63392])

When God takes away the soul, where is the hope of the foolish man? The house fell in the storm, when the builder had most need of it, and expected it would be a shelter to him. It fell when it was too late to build another. It is my prayer that the Lord makes us wise builders for eternity.

Let's also look at another parable of the ten virgins in Matthew 25:1-10

"Then shall the kingdom of heaven be likened unto ten virgins, which took their lamps, and went forth to meet the bridegroom. And five of them were wise, and five were fool-

ish. They that were foolish took their lamps, and took no oil with them: But the wise took oil in their vessels with their lamps. While the bridegroom tarried, they all slumbered and slept. And at midnight there was a cry made, Behold, the bridegroom cometh; go ye out to meet him. Then all those virgins arose, and trimmed their lamps. And the foolish said unto the wise, Give us of your oil; for our lamps are gone out. But the wise answered, saying, Not so; lest there be not enough for us and you: but go ye rather to them that sell, and buy for yourselves. And while they went to buy, the bridegroom came; and they that were ready went in with him to the marriage: and the door was shut."

The circumstances of the parable of the ten virgins were taken from the marriage customs among the Jews, and explain the great day of Christ's coming. As Christians we profess to attend upon Christ, to honor Him, also to be waiting for His coming. Sincere Christians are the wise virgins, and hypocrites the foolish ones. I realize there are so many believers who have a lamp of profession in their hands, but have not, in their hearts, sound knowledge and settled resolution, which are needed to carry them through the services and trials of the present state. Their hearts are not stored with holy dispositions, by the new-creating Spirit of God.

Our light must shine before men in good works; but this is not likely to be long done, unless there is a fixed,

active principle in the heart, of faith in Christ, and love to God and our brethren. Notice here, they all slumbered and slept. But one thing was definite, the bridegroom must come. Though there were some delays, he eventually showed up. And it is so with our Lord Jesus. Though Christ tarry past our time, He will not tarry past the due time. The wise virgins kept their lamps burning, but they did not keep themselves awake.

Too many real Christians grow remiss, and one degree of carelessness makes way for another. Those that allow themselves to slumber will scarcely keep from sleeping; therefore dread the beginning of spiritual de-

cays. When they heard

these words, Go ye out to meet Him, it was a call to those who were prepared.

The notice of Christ's approach, and the call to meet Him, will awaken. Even those best prepared for death have work to do to get actually ready. It will be a day of search and inquiry; and it concerns us to think how we shall then be found. Some wanted oil to supply their lamps when going out. Those that take up short of true grace will certainly find the want of it one time or other. An outward profession may light a man along this world, but the damps of the valley of the shadow of death will put out such a light. Those who care not to live the life yet would die the death of the righteous. But those that would be saved, must have grace of their own; and those that have most grace, have none to spare. The best need more from

Christ. And while the poor alarmed soul addresses itself, upon a sick-bed, to repentance and prayer, in awful confusion, death comes, judgment comes, the work is undone, and the poor sinner is undone forever. This comes of having oil to buy when we should burn it, grace to get when we should use it. Those and those only, shall go to heaven hereafter, that are made ready for heaven here. The suddenness of death and of Christ's coming to us then, will not hinder our happiness, if we have been prepared. The door was shut.

Many will seek admission into heaven when it is too late. The vain confidence of hypocrites will carry them far in expectations of happiness. The unexpected summons of death may alarm the Christian; but, proceeding without delay to trim his lamp, his graces often shine more bright; while

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