

Messenger Of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16).

September 11, 2012

Issue No. 59     Mark Aites, Editor

Unexpected

"No one is so brave that he is not disturbed by something unexpected." – Julius Caesar

"If history repeats itself, and the unexpected always happens, how incapable must man be of learning from experience. – George Bernard Shaw

"Some things are so unexpected that no one is prepared for them." – Leo Rosten

"It's especially important since September 11 for people to be trained for the unexpected. We want to try to make sure people are safe." – Michael Malone

Centuries ago the Proverb penned, "Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth" (Prov. 27:1). The United States of America got a hard lesson in this very thing on September 11, 2001. This calamity caused 2,819 souls to be ushered into eternity before they were ready.

How disconcerting it is to contemplate that one can enter into a day fully expecting to lie again in his bed when nightfall comes. Tragedies, accidents, sudden illnesses, no, we are not ready for them when they strike.

Isn't it ironic how we preach to folks time and again about the importance of always being ready in the event that our Lord comes, or that we leave this world through death? Then when tragedy strikes, we are shocked and dismayed.

When those precious souls awoke some eleven years ago, in their wildest dreams or imaginations, do you think they were aware it was their last day?

Isn't it interesting that Scripture warns about boasting? The Proverb warns of it with the unexpected, and James warns of it when contemplating the brevity of life. "Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.' But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil" (James 4:14-16).

The events of 9/11 should cause all of us to take a more humble stand in life. That day of tragedy serves as an unpleasant reminder that we are not as invincible as we have convinced ourselves that we are. True, we live in a great nation. We have extraordinary military might and sophistication. But even we were fooled into complacency.

Let's use the memory of this unexpected event to remind us that one day our Lord will return. He Himself said, "Watch therefore, for you do not know what hour your Lord is coming" (Matt. 24:42).