

“IN A MOMENT”

INTRODUCTION

How long is a moment? A synonym of a moment is “a very short space of time, a twinkling, flash, or jiffy.” Paul defines it as a “twinkling of an eye” in 1Co.15:52. We have heard of a “mile-second”. In a late world Olympics, one female runner was nearing the end, and just as she was about to cross the finish line, she **dove** forward, and won the race by 1/700th of a second—according to the officials. In scripture, the word “moment” is used to literally refer to a very brief period of time, or in contrast or comparisons with longer periods of time or eternity.

DISCUSSION

I. 1st, a moment refers to something happening suddenly or instantly.

- A. Sometimes we have to make a split-second decision, without an opportunity to think things over.
 - 1. Fortunately, we usually have time to meditate on things before making a rash decision. Ps.1:1f; 9:14; 119:97; 1Ti.4:15
 - 2. It is said that a pitcher from Texas' Ranger picture named Hamel throws so fast that the batter has 1/2 second to decide where to swing, from the time the ball leaves Hamels' hands till it reaches home plate.
- B. Miracles of the Bible record events that took place **instantly**, in a moment of time. Jn.5:1-9
- C. Truth will stand forever but a lie has its moments and shall be exposed.
Pr.12:19
 - 1. If one tells the truth, he will not have to try to remember what was said.
 - 2. God's word is truth, and will stand the passing of time and into eternity.
Pr.30:5,6; Ro.3:4; Jn.17:17

II. 2nd, a moment is contrasted with suffering for God.

- A. Pain in childbirth is momentary compared to the joy of having a child. Jn.16:21
- B. Our “light” affliction is nothing compared to our eternal “weight” of God's blessings. 1Co.4:17f
 - 1. Look at Paul's “affliction” in life that he counted loss. 2Co.11:23-30
 - 2. Moses compared the momentary pleasures of sin to God's blessings.
He.11:24-26
 - 3. Today, many trade their souls for a few moments of sexual pleasure, or ill-gotten gain.
 - a. One man once said to me that his daughter had sold her soul to the devil when she married a divorced man.
 - b. Does a thief think a life in the pen is worth a few dollars he has stolen?
 - c. Does a rapist think his one illicit sex act was worth life in prison?
- C. Jesus promises an eternal blessing for those who endure suffering for awhile. Cf Mt.5:11f; Ro.8:17f; 1Pe.4:12-16; Rev.2:10-13...

III. 3rd, our life-span is but a moment compared to eternity.

- A. Note how the scripture describes the brevity of life.
 - 1. It is but a vapor in God's time. Js.4:14
 - 2. It is a shadow in a world of material things. Job 14:1f
 - 3. It is described as being swifter than a weaver's shuttle. Job 7:6
 - 4. It is compared to grass of the field. 1Pe.1:24; Js.1:11
- B. What does it profit a man who has lived a life of pleasure without God, and then loses his soul? Mt.16:26
 - 1. The rich man in Luke 16 who died and went to torment did not want his brothers to come to that awful place of torment. He.9:27
 - 2. There is **no** turning back to earth after death to repent and obey God.

IV. 4th, the second coming of Jesus will be in a moment of time.

- A. Scoffers mock at the promise of His coming. 2Pe.3:3-7
- B. Christ's coming WILL indeed take place. v.8-10
 - 1. It will come in the twinkling of an eye. 1Co.15:50-53
 - 2. It will be at the last moment on the last day of this earth's existence.
 - 1Th.4:16
 - a. At that moment time shall be no more.
 - b. At that moment eternity will engulf us all.

CONCLUSION

- I. Satan says, "Let's make a deal, I'll give you all the pleasure and treasure you want now and you give me your soul for eternity' hell fire." WILL YOU DO THAT? ARE YOU DOING THAT NOW?
- II. What will you be thinking the first moment after you leave this earth in death?
- III. Exhortation.