

Don't Miss It!

On November 8, 1994, Scott & Janet Willis were traveling along I-94 thru Milwaukee when they ran over a 30-pound metal bracket that had fallen off a truck. As they dragged the bracket under the van, it punctured the gas tank and exploded, killing six of their children. Scott & Janet placed their faith in God, consoled their community, and thanked those who helped. They reminded everyone that we must be ready to meet God at any moment.

Four Awesome Rewards Available to Those Who Know the Lord:

1. _____ (A Peace With God)

- a. *"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."* Romans 5:1. Because of Christ's death on a cross, we can be declared righteous. Jesus died to pay the penalty for our sin by 1) satisfying God's demands for justice; and 2) washing our sins away.
- b. We must place our trust in Christ by embracing him with our mind, will, and emotions. If we reject Christ, we remain his enemies (Romans 5:10). Those who profess Christ, but fail to follow his ways, also remain his enemies. Of those, Jesus says, *"I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers."* Matthew 7:23.

2. _____ (A Standing In Grace)

- a. *"Through whom we have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand."* Romans 5:2. The Jewish people were accustomed to a series of barriers that distanced them from God. At the temple where God's presence resided, Gentiles, women, men, priests, and even the High Priest faced various barriers.
- b. All barriers to God were destroyed at Jesus' death, when the veil of the temple was split in two (Matthew 27:51). Access to God is available to any believer at any time in any place. We should pray *"with confidence"* (Hebrews 4:16), knowing that we have a God who answers prayer!

3. _____ (The Hope of God's Glory)

- a. *"We rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."* Romans 5:2. Our salvation is anchored in the past (the cross), the present (continuous access to grace), and the future (at the final judgment). "Hope" in the Bible, always refers to something that is certain and positive. Because of Christ, our future in heaven is guaranteed, and it will be full of God's glory!
- b. Abraham was *"looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God."* Hebrews 11:10. Mount Zion in Jerusalem will be *"God's resting place for ever and ever; here I will sit enthroned."* Psalm 132:13-14.

4. _____ (An Outpouring of Love)

- a. *“Hope does not disappoint us, because God has poured out his love into our hearts by the Holy Spirit, whom he has given us. You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.” Romans 5:5-8.*
- b. Romantic love is based on mutual attraction. But when God loved us, there was nothing attractive to love. Grace is so amazing, because “it saved a wretch like me.”

***One Minute After I Die* by Erwin Lutzer begins with these words, “One minute after you slip behind the parted curtain, you will either be enjoying a personal welcome from Christ or catching your first glimpse of gloom as you have never known it. Either way, your future will be irrevocably fixed and eternally unchangeable.”**

Inside the cover of Pastor Denny’s used copy of Lutzer’s book is this handwritten message, “Monica, I wanted to give you my favorite book of all time...I thought it most appropriate since Easter is about Jesus’ death, burial, and resurrection. Happy Easter, Monica, and see you in eternity! Love, Lori. Ps – Co-workers are your 2nd family...we are family...I got all my sisters in me.” Don’t miss heaven! Go, tell it on the mountain!

Discussion Questions

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1. Do you remember hearing about Scott & Janet Willis's car accident that killed their six children? How do you think you would react to such a tragedy? How did Scott & Janet react? Why is it important to understand that this was an extremely unusual accident? How does this illustrate the importance of being ready to meet the Lord at any moment?
2. Read Romans 5:1-11. What is taught about peace with God in verse 1? How is God able to declare us righteous because of the death of Christ on the cross? What are the two things that Christ's death accomplishes for us? What does it mean to place our trust in Christ? What does verse 10 say about our status if we continue to reject Christ? What is taught in Matthew 7:21-23?
3. Read verse 2. What is taught about a standing in grace in this verse? What were the barriers that prevented people from experiencing God's presence in the Old Testament era? What special barriers were in place for Gentiles? For women? For men who were not priests? For priests who were not the high priest? For the high priest? How were these barriers destroyed by the death of Christ (Matthew 27:51)? What does it mean to have access to God for any believer at any time in any place? What is taught in Hebrews 4:16? What does this verse teach about being bold when we pray?
4. What is taught in Romans 5:1-2 about salvation being anchored in the past (the cross), the present (continuous access to grace), and the future (the final judgment)? Why is it important to understand that the biblical use of the word "hope" always refers to that which is certain and positive? What was Abraham's hope according to Hebrews 11:10? What hope is referred to in Psalm 132:13-14? What did you learn from the video clip about heaven?
5. What is taught in verses 5-8 about an outpouring of God's love? Have you ever experienced romantic love? What attracted you to the one you loved? Why is it important to understand that God chose us "while we were still sinners" (Romans 5:8)? Do you agree with Erwin Lutzer's opening statement in his book *One Minute After You Die*? Have you ever reached out to a co-worker like Lori did when she gave a Christian book to her co-worker Monica? Why is this so important?