

HEARTBEATS Staying Connected 6/10/2024
Saved for Something

Dear Friends in CHRIST,

ONE AT ONE – Every day this week beginning on Tuesday, June 11 you are encouraged to pray for one minute at one o'clock. This week, pray for those who struggle for mental health and well-being. Ask GOD to provide them with the help they need to overcome the difficulties that can overwhelm their lives. Pray that we might have greater sensitivity to those who need help.

I have a clergy friend who is passionate about putting out messages that talk about CHRIST's return. Things like, "Little by little, the world is realizing the Bible is not a fairy tale. JESUS is coming back," or "The days of Noah have come. They were warned just like we are," or "I hope you all take the rapture as seriously as this eclipse," or "Someday your soul will leave your body and you will spend eternity in one of two places: Heaven or hell. Accept JESUS into your life today." While the salvation that CHRIST offers is important to realize and share, this is not the whole story.

We are not just saved *from* something, specifically hell. We are saved *for* something. The call of JESUS is at least as much about this life as it is about the next. JESUS made many statements that give us a purpose in this world. "Follow ME and I will make you fishers of people." "Let your light so shine before others that they may see your good works and give glory to your FATHER in heaven." "Love your enemies and pray for those who hate you." "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." "Take up your cross and follow ME." "GO, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY SPIRIT." "Love one another. As I have loved you, you must love one another." And there's a lot more.

JESUS doesn't want us just sitting around waiting for HIM to return. HE calls us to continue the work HE started. Help the blind to see. Help the lame to walk. Cleanse the lepers. Help the deaf to hear. Raise the dead. Proclaim freedom to the poor. If we take these literally, the task seems undoable except for JESUS. When we think of these things in broader terms, we begin to see the possibility of our role in doing them. Some simply can't see the love of GOD in their lives or hear the good news of GOD's forgiveness. Some have become debilitated by the difficulties of life. Some have allowed this world to take life from them. Some can see no way out of the challenges of life.

We can bring them hope. We can show them love. We can tell them about the ONE who loves them so much that HE died for them, that their past does not control or define them, and that their future can be full of possibility. If we are only waiting for CHRIST to come again, we have failed to truly be HIS followers. It is when we are in service to others that we have claimed HIS invitation to take up the cross.

We are not just saved from something.

We are saved for something!

In CHRIST's love,
Pastor Jeffrey