

The Last and Final Call

One day while travelling on a train my eyes settled on an elderly lady and something in her actions told me she was not a Christian. My eyes then caught others of a similar age and the thought came to me, **“God, so many of these people don’t know anything about you and they are so set in their ways.”** Then it was like a voice spoke to me and said, they were not always like that. When they were younger they heard about God and some of them went to Church and Sunday school. They had the choice of serving God or following the world but they chose the world and the devil.

Some of these people have been in sin so long that there is no room in their heart for the word of God. Their conscience has been seared with a hot iron; they have become desensitised; there is no remorse for sin. When you talk to them it is like a foreign language to them. **They waited too long and left it too late.**

Do you know you can be alive and yet doomed? Some people have grieved the Holy Ghost and sealed their doom. Now nothing move’s them or touch’s them.

There are some people that you talk to who will cry and want to change but Satan has them tied up and bound. Unless God has mercy on them they will be lost forever. The writer of the book of Hebrews warns us about the danger of grieving the Spirit of God (**Hebrews 3:7 –13**).

There are other people who you will come across who believe in God and says all the right things but they will not do them. They love God but they are **lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God**. They have a form of godliness but no power to stop sinning. **They love sin**. Paul in his writings tells us that this would be one of the signs of the last days (**2 Timothy 3:1-5**).

Young people, **youth is the time to serve the Lord**. The few older people whom God may have mercy on in their old age are usually full of remorse and regret from a wasted life. The Apostle John encourages us to love God and to forsake the world (**1 John 2:12 – 17**).

When we are going on a long journey for example on a plane we have to purchase our ticket. Well-wishers may come with us to see us off but because they have no ticket they can’t fly. Sometimes these are close friends and family; sons, daughters, husbands, wives etc. They travel with us to the airport, go into the airport building with us, sit in the lounge with us, maybe eat and drink with us but when its time to go they can’t go through the departure lounge with us because they do not have a ticket. This can be a sad time; tears are often shed as we feel the loss because we don’t know if or when we shall meet again. When it is time for boarding an announcement is normally made to let the passengers know that it is time for boarding. This may be

repeated several times and eventually if any are missing before take off you will hear the announcement:

This is the final call for passengers on flight going to

If people don't respond the plane won't wait for them and they will miss the flight.

Right now the Church is getting herself ready to take off and leave this world. Some have tickets and are ready to go but there are loved ones without a ticket. It's going to be a sad day when the Church leaves if any of our loved ones are left behind. Some people come to Church week in and week out but yet have not purchased a ticket. They worship with us but are like the well-wishers that accompany the traveller to the airport to see them off.

Unlike the literal plane where most times the ticket is a return one, when the Church departs it will be a one-way ticket. Neither she nor her passengers will be returning. People from all over the world will be taking off at the same time. W.B. Blackburn penned the words:

***When the Church of God arises with her garments bright and fair,
And ascends to meet the Bridegroom for the marriage in the air;
She'll outshine the sun at noon-day, not a wrinkle, not a spot,
Will you be among the Bride or will you not?***

Right now if you don't have a ticket you have the opportunity to get one.
This could be your last and final call.

Submitted by Philip C. Bennett