

FOREVER IN OUR HEARTS
We honor Pastor Ray's life by
continuing to share the daily
devotions he prepared for
you, his precious readers.

Do It Now
Ray Bentley Ministries

"I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation."
—2 Corinthians 6:2, NIV

When you hear the truth—and you know it because it confirms your deepest instincts, or the evidence surrounding you, or it resonates in your heart and mind—act upon it now.

Don't wait.

Don't be like the man who had great ideals and great intentions. He was going to be all that a mortal should be—tomorrow.

No one would try harder than he—tomorrow. Each morning he stacked up the letters he would write—tomorrow.

He lamented how busy he was and swore to visit that old friend—tomorrow.

He would reconcile with his estranged brother—tomorrow.

He would visit his elderly parent—tomorrow.

He would take the time to grow closer to God—tomorrow.

The world would have known him if he had ever seen —tomorrow. But the fact is, he died and faded from memory, and all that was left when he left this earth was the mountain of things he intended to do—tomorrow.

This is the time of year when old friends, relatives, past hurts, and sorrows pull at us, haunt us, and hang over us. The friends we have lost, and the loved ones we have hurt. It is time to take care of things during this poignant season, which has the potential for so much healing.



Something about the Christmas season brings all those memories to the forefront of our minds.

Don't ignore the tug of the Holy Spirit if you are being nudged to reconcile with someone—or with God.

"Now listen," wrote the apostle, "you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city...Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow... If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them'" (James 4:13-17, NIV).

Don't put "now" off until tomorrow.

DO IT NOW!

Some years ago, I was in occasional contact with an elderly lady who for reasons unknown to me, started to write to me, sharing her sadness at the alienation of her daughter, who had been a classmate of mine at college. She also was lonely, living alone in her house of many years. She loved to talk about many mundane subjects, like the cookies she baked that day or what she did in her garden. After a while, when she knew it wasn't wise to live alone, she sold the house to a family who agreed to let her stay there for the remainder of her life. I always appreciated the family for that favor, although I never met them.

I felt sympathy for this lady, especially for the pain her daughter had caused her when the daughter went a little nuts and accused her of terrible things that allegedly happened in the past. So I would continue writing to this lady, even though I felt inadequate to the job of comforting her. The only comfort I felt good about offering was to urge her to pray for her daughter, and to hang in there with God, to give her strength to withstand the lies and vitriol coming from her daughter.

She lived in Fresno, a bit of a drive, but I "intended" to visit her sometime. I never got around to doing that, and then when her letter writing stopped, I suspected she had passed on, being nearly 90 in age. Ever since, I have lived with the regret that I didn't ever go to see this sad, lonely lady. I procrastinated, waiting until - tomorrow - as Ray Bentley says.

Another pastor, Jack Hibbs of Calvary Chapel Chino Hills, tells stories about the small voice we may hear now and then, possibly the voice of God, who nudges us to do this or that at times. If we ignore the nudge, we can live to regret it for a very long time. Rather than regret the regret, we need to first learn to listen to that voice and do what it says, and then if we turned a deaf ear at one time or another, to face ourselves honestly and then let our character grow in the fertile soil of the regrets.

This week we are in is the week between Christmas and New Year's Day, a good time to take stock of our personal lives, what we've accomplished, what we should accomplish, the regrets we carry with us, and how we are doing in our relationships with others. Most importantly, we should take stock of our relationship with our Father in Heaven, and make every effort to turn our lives over to Him, NOW, not - tomorrow.

If you're at all aware of what's going on in the whole world around us, you'll realize how fragile this life is. We watch as Israel gets attacked by its "neighbor", and people who had no clue, who were just peacefully living their lives, all of a sudden were thrust into a terrible situation of pain, sorrow, torture, and death. Were they ready to meet their God at that time? Only He knows.

Much more recently, Syria, Israel's neighbor to the north and east, erupted in

Hamas, Hezbollah, and the weakening of Iran, none of whom could now bail Syria out militarily as they had done before. That suffering country has been a pressure cooker under a lid of a grossly murderous dictator, so when conditions were right, the pressure cooker erupted.

The island of Taiwan, once a part of China but now a relatively free economic powerhouse, is constantly threatened by China, who wants to take Taiwan back, which means destruction of their freedoms and their economic productivity. Ask Hong Kong how that turned out when China took it back over.

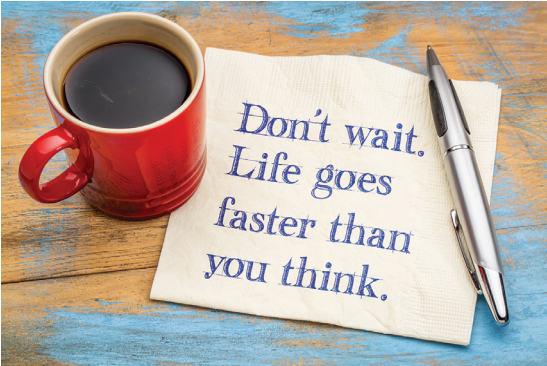
On our side of the globe, even though we feel relieved that the election in large part restored some sanity in Washington D.C., the leftist/communists are not finished with their campaign to destroy western civilization, which means our lifestyles and relative freedoms. Then when we (the U.S.) fall, other nations who look to us for leadership and for help will be far more vulnerable and tend to fall, also. Thus would end western civilization, the embodiment of everything we grew up believing in, especially laws and governance based on God's Natural Law. We spoiled Americans have no clue what it's like to live under a totalitarian government. We do know they hate us who are independent and who especially are committed to serving God. That means that they hate most Americans.

Add it all up - the world's instability and increasing warfare; the flood of terrorists and leftists determined to destroy us; governments out of control - prospects for our lives, or our children's and grandchildren's lives, being lived out "business as usual" is looking pretty iffy.

Most of it is way out of our control, so the one thing we can do is to commit our lives to God, take on His strength and peace, and influence those we can to do the same. Then no matter what happens, we are in good hands, God's hands, with the prospect of eternal life before us.

Time is flying in ways I never knew was possible. Things we remember doing "a couple of days ago" really were done 4 MONTHS ago. All the more reason to decide and act now. We need to make that commitment TODAY, not - tomorrow.

GOD HELP US TO MAKE THAT COMMITMENT!
Linda Gammel



LVEDA Meeting
(Lucerne Valley Economic Development Association)

There will be NO Meeting for December.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

On The Lighter Side of Serious Stuff . . . from the Web

Bo Loudon @BoLoudon

Joe Biden's presidency began with him denying the existence of Hunter's laptop and is ending with Biden pardoning Hunter for his laptop!

PATRIOTPOST.US: OBJECTIVE AND UNCENSORED ANALYSIS

Three cows holding signs: "STOP THE GREEN NEW DEAL", "SUPPORT THE RIGHT OF COWS TO FART", "MY FART MY CHOICE"

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

Dear Universe, when I asked if this day could possible get any worse, it was a rhetorical question, not a challenge.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

IKEA just dropped off our snowman!

LVM Commentary - Dec. 26, 2024 - Jan. 1, 2025

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

"YOU CAN'T JUST CUT GOVERNMENT AND EXPECT IT TO WORK!"
ELON AND VIVEK: YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?!

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS

I dropped a box of spaghetti on the ground and accidentally graduated from Art School.

PATRIOTPOST.US: THE BEST HUMOR, MEMES, & CARTOONS