

This is the Day...Monday

July 25, 2022

It won't be long now!

“Lord, what are human beings that you care for them, mere mortals that you think of them? They are like a breath; their days are like a fleeting shadow.” (Psalm 144:3-4)

Do you know what will happen five minutes from now? What about five hours or five days? None of us know the future, do we? We can't predict what will happen later today or tomorrow or even in the next few minutes. I don't know what will happen in five hours or five days. But I do know what will happen in five months! Five months from today! Christmas day!!! It won't be long now!

Now, before you start proceedings to have me committed or call for a vote of confidence, let me explain. You know how I love Christmas. The lights, the decorations, the music. But it is more than that. I love Christmas because it can bring out the best in us. Yes, I realize there are fights at Walmart for that last Cabbage Patch toy and I know some people lose their mind because someone cuts them off to steal their parking space. But, overall, we have the opportunity to see the best in each other at Christmastime. It is a season when we give and our awareness of those around us who are in need is more acute. It is a time when we truly focus on the meaning of God's plan of redemption for our lives as we celebrate a baby born in a manger. It is too bad that the best parts of Christmas can't last throughout the year.

But there is another reason why I am mentioning Christmas in July. Because it will be here in about five minutes. At least that is what it will seem like. Time is like a rushing wind. By the time you hear it coming, it is already past. We wander through our days, striving to live with joy and faith. And the days may seem to go slowly at times, but the months and years go by very quickly. Life is but a breath, a fleeting shadow.

When I was a young boy, I loved to lay on the cool grass in the summertime and watch the clouds pass overhead. I would begin watching a particular cloud, just as it floated into sight, captive by the power of the wind. I was always amazed at the shadow it would cast over me as it passed by. I could judge how fast the cloud was moving by how quickly the shadow came across my yard. As quickly as the shadow appeared, it was gone again. Life is like a fleeting shadow, captive by the power of time.

On this day which God has given you, as you pass across the skies of life, don't allow even one minute to pass by without squeezing the life out of it. Use your time to be the best you can be. Maybe even act like it is Christmastime. It won't be long now.