

Neighborly News

Brought to you by your friends at the Mt. Hebron Church of Christ.

Do you know what time it is?

A few years ago, there was a commercial which asked, "It's 10 o'clock; do you know where your children are?" This commercial has always seemed to stick in my mind. I could not tell you what was being advertised or spoken of in the commercial, but I can tell you that it has a real application in the lives of men today. For many today the time in their lives is 10 o'clock, and soon their souls will be required. Perhaps we are nearing 10 o'clock ourselves. Do we know where we are?

The lifespan of a person is around 74 years. I am sure that this fluctuates somewhat depending upon location or vocation, but this is the average age. Moses wrote about the brevity of life, "For it is soon cut off, and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10). The point is this: Man at best will not be here long, and truthfully is not guaranteed a moment. The clock may stop at any time. I can name numerous friends who have passed from this life before they really had a chance to begin to live. Many of those, unfortunately, had not made preparation for the life after

this one and will be lost, and so will we if we lay not up treasures in heaven.

Perhaps we think that we will live long enough to make things right. That is a great risk. The time to be saved is now for each one of us. Someone has made a mathematical parallel of the lifespan with a 24 hour day. It is as follows; see what time it is in your life.

If you are **15 years old** it's **8:51 a.m.**

If you are **20 years old** it's **11:08 a.m.**

If you are **25 years old** it's **12:25 p.m.**

If you are **30 years old** it's **1:25 p.m.**

If you are **35 years old** it's **2:59 p.m.**

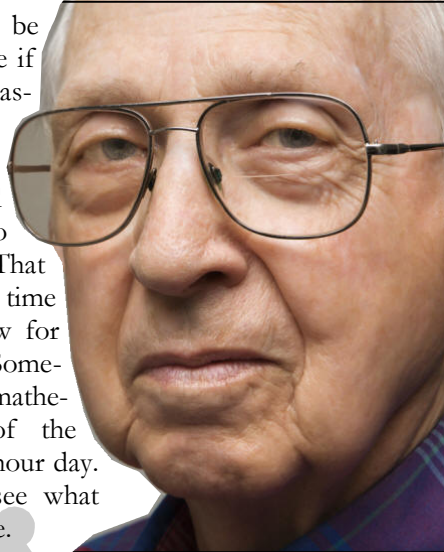
If you are **40 years old** it's **4:16 p.m.**

If you are **45 years old** it's **5:43 p.m.**

If you are **50 years old** it's **6:50 p.m.**

If you are **55 years old** it's **8:08 p.m.**

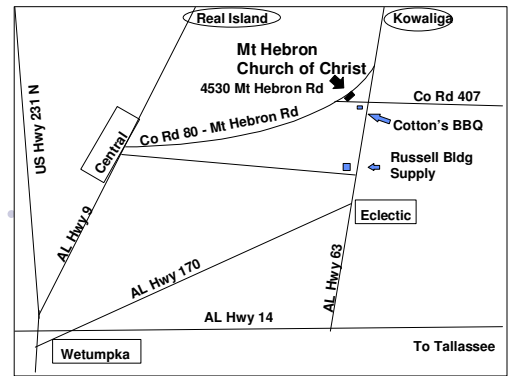
If you are **60 years old** it's **10:00 p.m.**



If you are **70 years old**, you are approaching **MID-NIGHT!**

While we are not all 60-years-old, I will repeat the earlier question. "It's 10 o'clock; do you know where you are?" How many people have wondered where the time went? James 4:14 shows the brevity of life in certain terms, "*you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.*" It is always my hope that you will make the most of today and look to God for salvation.

—Daniel F. Cates, Philadelphia, Mississippi



Mt. Hebron Church of Christ

P.O. Box 240159
4530 Mt. Hebron Rd.
Eclectic, Ala. 36024

Come and visit us

Sunday
Bible Classes 10:00 AM
Worship Services 11:00 AM & 6:00 PM

Wednesday
Bible Classes 7:00 PM

Kids Know Dogs

A nursery school teacher was delivering a car full of children home one day when a fire truck zoomed past. Sitting in the front seat of the fire truck was a Dalmatian dog. The children started discussing the dog's duties.

"They use him to keep crowds back," said one youngster.

"No," said another, "he's just for good luck."

A third child brought the argument to a close. "They use the dogs," she said firmly, "to find the fire hydrant."



"A joyful heart is good"
Proverbs 17:22

"Blessed is the man who remains steadfast under trial, for when he has stood the test he will receive the crown of life, which God has promised to those who love him." James 1:12

Who I am can make a difference

A teacher in New York decided to honor all of her high school seniors by telling them the difference they had made. She called each student to the front of the class, one at a time, and told each how he or she had made a difference to her and the class. Then she presented each with a blue ribbon, imprinted with gold letters, which read, "Who I Am Makes a Difference."

She later decided to do a class project to see what kind of impact recognition would have on a community. She gave students three blue ribbons each and instructed them to go out and spread this acknowledgment ceremony. They were to report back in three weeks on who was honored and what the results were.

One boy went to a junior executive in a nearby company and honored him for helping him with career planning. He pinned the blue ribbon on his shirt and gave him the other two ribbons. He explained, "We're doing a class project on recognition, and we'd like you to find somebody to honor. Present him a blue ribbon and then give the extra one so he can acknowledge a third person to keep this ac-

knowledgment ceremony going. Report back to me what happened."

Later that day, the junior executive went in to see his boss, who had been kind of a grouch lately. He told his boss that he deeply admired him for being a creative genius. The boss seemed very surprised. He then asked him if he would accept the gift of the blue ribbon, and would he give him permission to put it on him. He said, "Well, sure." The junior executive placed it right on his boss's jacket, above his heart. He gave him the last ribbon, saying, "Take this and pass it on by honoring someone else. The boy who first gave me the ribbons is doing a project in school, and he wants to keep this recognition ceremony going and find out how it affects people."

"But tonight I just want, well, to let you know that you do make a difference to me."

That night the boss sat his fourteen-year-old son down and said, "The most incredible thing happened to me today. I was in my office, and a junior executive came in and told me he admired me and gave me a blue ribbon for being a creative gen-

ius. Imagine! He thinks I'm a creative genius! Then he put this ribbon that says, "Who I Am Makes a Difference," on my jacket. He gave me an extra ribbon and asked me to find somebody else to honor. As I was driving home to-night, I started thinking about who I would honor, and I thought of you. I want to honor you. My days are hectic and when I come home, I don't pay a lot of attention to you. Sometimes I scream at you for not getting good grades in school and for your bedroom being a mess. But to-night I just want, well, to let you know that you do make a difference to me. Besides your mother, you are the most important person in my life. You're a great kid, and I love you!"

The startled boy started to sob. He couldn't stop crying. His whole body shook. He looked at his father and said through his tears, "Dad, I've been sitting in my room writing a letter to you and Mom, explaining why I had killed myself, and I asked you to

forgive me. I was going to commit suicide tonight after you were asleep. I just didn't think that you cared at all." His father

walked upstairs and found a heartfelt letter full of anguish and pain. The boss went back to work a changed man. He was no

longer a grouch but constantly let his employees know that they made a difference. The junior executive helped other young people with career planning, and never forgot to let them know that they made a difference in his life . . . one being the boss' son. And the young boy and his classmates learned a valuable lesson, "Who you are DOES make a difference."

"Everyone helps his neighbor and says to his brother, 'Be strong!' The craftsman strengthens the goldsmith and he who smooths with the hammer him who strikes the anvil, saying of the soldering, 'It is good' and they strengthen it with nails so that it cannot be moved," (Isaiah 41:6-7).



From the children

Dear God, You don't have to worry about me, I look both ways. —Dean, 6

Dear God, I think the stapler is one of your greatest inventions. —Ruth, 6 1/2

Dear God, I think about you even when I'm not praying. —Eliot, 7

Dear God, I bet it is very hard for you to love all of everybody in the whole world. There are only four people in our family

and I can never do it. —Nancy, 8

Dear God, If you watch in church on Sunday, I will show you my new shoes. —Mickey, 9

Dear God, I would like to live 900 years like the guy in the Bible. —Chris, 7

Dear God, We read Thomas Edison made light but in Sunday School they said you did it. I bet he stole your idea. —Donna, 10

Dear God, If you let the dinosaurs not be extinct we would not have a country.

You did the right thing. —Jonathan, 7

Dear God, I do not think anybody could be a better God. Well, I just want you to know but I am not just saying that because you are God. —Aaron, 8

"Out of the mouth of babies and infants, you have established strength," (Psalm 8:2).

