

# WORK FOR THE NIGHT IS COMING

By Keith Greer

"I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work." {John 9:4}

Whenever I read this passage, my mind goes back to the short period of Jesus' public ministry. How long was this period? For three years Jesus had what many consider his "public ministry", following His baptism by John. Yet, what wonderful things He accomplished in a short time! Let us look at some of them.

**The call of the 12.** "And when He had called His twelve disciples to Him, He gave them power over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all kinds of sickness and all kinds of disease. Now the names of the twelve apostles are these: first, Simon, who is called Peter, and Andrew his brother; James the son of Zebedee, and John his brother; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Lebbaeus, whose surname was Thaddaeus; Simon the Canaanite, and Judas Iscariot, who also betrayed Him." {Matthew 10:1-4}

"And He said to them, Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men." {Matthew 4:19}

"I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one." {John 17:15} God's special disciples, who would become the apostles, had a very important work to do after His departure – spreading the gospel and gaining souls into His kingdom!

**Miracles of Jesus.** While Jesus was on the earth He cast out demons, Mark 1:23-26; healed the demon-possessed, blind and mute man, Matthew 12:22,23; fed the five thousand, Mark 6:35-44; healed the nobleman's son, John 4:46-54; made the blind see, Mark 8:22-26; and He raised Lazarus from the dead, John 11:34-46. He did many other works, but you see the point of the good He accomplished. Surely this should have convinced men He came from God. Nicodemus understood, John 3:1-5.

Jesus took twelve common men, and transformed them into "fishers of men"! How did He do it? By example, teaching, and more teaching! Yes, Jesus did not "throw them to the wolves" but nurtured and fed them with that good spiritual food. Did they make mistakes? Of course! Yet, read the book of Acts, and see the great work accomplished by these men. Love, patience, compassion, and Jesus' hard work paid off!

**Death on the Cross.** Jesus gave His life freely on Calvary, that you and I might live one day eternally in heaven, John 19:30 - and all this in a period of three years! Man's greatest problem and need now found an answer in that death at Golgotha. Where would men be today without the blood sacrifice on that cross? Now men have a divine remedy for the "sin problem" and men in every generation have real hope of better things after death – thanks to the cross.

So what is my point? Why quote the words of Jesus in John 9? How many years do you and I have to give? I've been a Christian since the age of thirteen - many more years than three! What have I accomplished? How many years have you had, and what have you done with all those years? God gives us one of His most precious gifts – time. All of us are creatures of “free will.” Each of us determined how to use the time allotted to us by God. God gives us opportunity every day to do Him service and good for others. How are we using those “golden moments?”

According to Hebrews 9:27, we will all meet death's appointment. The Lord is coming again, and we know not when. Are we working now, before the "**night**" comes, and we must rest from our labors? Jesus packed much work in those few years, for He knew His time was limited. Brethren, so is ours! Truly, it's not how many years we have, but what we do with them! **Quality, not quantity.** \*\*\*