

Last Call by Willem Hekman

Nowadays we hear a lot about the Last Call. In the news we hear about the US president giving a 'Last Call' to Saddam Hussein to disarm or face the consequences of being disarmed and replaced.

We are witnessing some nations siding with the US and many others decided to oppose the joined British-American plan of action. The United Nations is having a large team of inspectors in Iraq searching for chemical and biological weapons of mass-destruction and even witnessing the destructions of dozens of Iraqi missiles that go beyond the allowable distance of firing power.

But we need to know that the ultimate 'Last Call' will not be given by a President, Prime Minister or King but by the Lord Jesus Christ. His Last Words are recorded in Revelation 22: 12,

“Behold, I am coming soon! My reward is with me, and I will give to everyone according to what he has done, I am the Alpha and Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.”

Then the final 'Last Call' in the Word of God is found in Revelation 22:17,
 “The Spirit and the Bride say “Come!” And let him who hears say, “Come!”. Whoever is thirsty, let him come, and whoever wishes, let him take the free gift of the water of life.”

In 1971 I conducted 3 days of Youth Crusades in one of the largest auditoriums of Jakarta.

We handed out 50.000 invitations to high school students. We had a 1000-voice Choir sing accompanied by a drum band of 100 drummers. The Kings Men quartet from Canada

Performed. The leading guitarist and well-known Indonesian singers participated and evangelist Octavianus shared the Gospel for 3 days. The event was called the “Panggilan Jaya” or The Great Call, based on Matthew 11:28, where the Lord Jesus calls out:

“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light”.

A total of over 30,000 young people attended these meetings. The young people were invited to answer to this call of Jesus Christ and over 2000 came and stepped forward to receive Jesus Christ as personal Savior. This was the beginning of the Youth for Christ movement in Indonesia and the start of the Jakarta Bible College and the Bible Church movement, which now has over 300 churches throughout Indonesia.

The 'Greatest Call' and 'Last Call' of Jesus Christ are very similar.

This is the call that really counts because “all authority in heaven and earth has been given by God to the Lord Jesus Christ”. He is the King of Kings and Lord of lords. He is the final judge of all mankind. We will all stand before Him some day. There will be no place to hide and no place to run to.

There are TEN SHORT STATEMENTS in this ‘Last Call’ we need to pay attention to:

BEHOLD, I AM COMING SOON!

Again a final time in Revelation 22:20 Jesus said, “Yes, I am coming soon”. This is the third time

Jesus makes this statement in this last chapter in the Bible. Jesus Christ is coming soon. If this was true 2000 years ago then it is a lot sooner today. The signs of His soon coming are listed in Matthew 24 beginning with verse 4:

there will appear imitators of Jesus Christ,
wars and rumors of wars,
nation rise against nation,
kingdom against kingdom,
famines, earthquakes, great persecution,
many will turn away from the faith,
many false prophets performing great signs and miracles ,
increase of wickedness,
love of most believers will grow cold,
and a worldwide preaching of the Gospel.

All these signs are visible and apparent these days. When will the Lord come? The Apostle did not give much thought to writing about times and dates but he warned the believers to be ready for His soon coming as “He will come like a thief in the night”, suddenly and at a time we do not expect Him to come.

MY REWARD IS WITH ME

The Lord uses the Greek word “Misthos” meaning wages or pay. Payday some day! Jesus Christ will hand out rewards to those who faithfully served Him. Pastors suffering in prison in Vietnam, China and other nations where the church is suffering, will be honored and rewarded.

I WILL GIVE TO EVERY ONE ACCORDING TO WHAT HE HAS DONE.

It will be Christ’s rule of judgment at that great day. He will be the one and only judge. There will be no jury. All the money in the world in the world cannot influence His justice. There will be no manipulation. There will be no chance to go to the house of the judge in the early evening and present an envelop full with cash trying to bribe the judge make a decision in your favor. He will dispense rewards or punishment to men according to their works. No speeches from clever lawyers. The only way we can escape punishment is by putting our trust and faith in Jesus Christ. Even our faith is a gift from God. Jesus Christ is the author, finisher and rewarded of the faith and holiness of His people.

I AM THE ALPHA AND THE OMEGA

The first and last letter of the Greek alphabet indicating that the Lord God is the beginning and end of all things. He has the final vote. He has veto power over all presidents, kings and ministers of states. Nobody can over ride or ignore Jesus Christ when He returns to begin His reign. A Muslim leader of the Islam Youth Movement came to my house in Jakarta and asked me to pray for him and introduce him to Jesus Christ. I asked Yusuf what influenced him most to become a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. He quoted these words of Jesus "I am the alpha and the omega".

I AM THE FIRST AND THE LAST.

He is the first and the last, and the same from first to last. He wants to be first and last in your life and my life. Is He? Who talks to you first thing in the morning? Who do you talk to first and last each day? I had a friend who directed the Jakarta Bible College after I returned to the States in late seventies. He had a policy in his home and in our Inalta Bible College. "No Bible, no breakfast". Every morning Jesus Christ was first when the students had morning prayers at 5 AM and He also had the last words during last chapel session just before the students went to sleep. We have the same policy at the 4 BMW Bible Schools. We must communicate with Head Quarters first and last of each day.

I AM THE BEGINNING AND THE END

Bible Commentator, Swete writes that this phrase is seen to express not eternity only but infinitude.

The boundless life which embraces all while it transcends all. Jesus is the beginning of true life,
an exciting life, a joyful life, a truly satisfied life. He is also the end of your search for solutions
and satisfaction. Andrew met the Lord Jesus and immediately he looked for his brother Peter and told Peter, "We have found the Messiah!". It was the end of their search. Jesus gave a very simple instruction to these first disciples, "follow me". Immediately they left their boats and nets and the tax business and followed Jesus. This was quite amazing. When Jesus spoke He spoke with great authority.

THE SPIRIT AND THE BRIDE SAY COME

Every time the Gospel is preached it is the Holy Spirit saying 'Come'. Come to Jesus. When you hand out a Gospel tract it is the Holy Spirit and the Bride saying "Come". The Spirit and the Bride are working together making this Last Call. The Bride is the Church. The Church are the believers so we must pass on this invitation of Jesus Christ, this 'Last Call', to our friends and neighbors. When I was a boy we used to sing a song in the Netherlands entitled, "Kom tot uw Heiland, toef langer niet". "Come to the Savior, make no delay".

Come to the Savior, make no delay;
Here in His Word He's shown us the way;
Here in our midst He's standing today,

Tenderly saying, "Come!"
 Joyful, joyful, will the meeting be
 When from sin our hearts are pure and free
 And we shall gather, Savior with Thee,
 In our eternal home.
 "Suffer the children!" O hear His voice
 Let evr'y heart leap forth and rejoice
 And let us freely make Him our choice ;
 Do not delay, but come.

Think Once again, He's with us today;
 Heed now His blest commands, and obey,
 Hear now His accents tenderly say.
 "Will you, my children, come?"

LET HIM WHO HEARS SAY, "COME"!

You and I have heard the call of Jesus and now we must pass on this call and invitation to others

who are still waiting to hear. What a privilege to pass on this call of Jesus Christ. The Great Commission of the Lord Jesus Christ are His instructions to go into all the world and preach the Gospel to all people. We must go now. Jesus Himself used to go when he walked on this earth.

Now you and I are going. The message is the same, "Come". Come to the Savior, make no delay!

This is an urgent message. This is Last Call.

WHOEVER IS THIRSTY, LET HIM COME.

People are thirsty for the truth. Jesus Christ is the truth. People are thirsty for reality and satisfaction.

Jesus is the satisfier of the thirsty soul. In the early seventies I used to place Gospel messages in newspapers as paid adds. On such add started with a question "Are you satisfied?" I pictured

some objects that people use to search for satisfaction such as a needle, a glass, money, a pretty lady and fame. Yet the one man who obtained all the world could ever offer in his search for satisfaction came to the conclusion that "all is vanity". He even had a 1000 beautiful ladies around him. He did not find satisfaction. Neither will you and I. Then I closed the message in the add with an invitation to write to PO Box 4, Jakarta and ask for free literature explaining how we can achieve true satisfaction in this life. Some weeks I received over 10,000 letters showing how thirsty the Indonesians are for satisfaction.

WHOEVER WISHES, LET HIM TAKE THE FREE GIFT OF THE WATER OF LIFE

Jesus Christ is the free gift of the Water of Life. Whoever takes this gift will never thirst again. Salvation is free. We do not need to travel to Jerusalem, Rome or Mecca to find Salvation. Salvation is available here now. Whenever we hear the Gospel it is the Spirit

and the Bride saying, “Come”. Right now the Spirit and the Bride is inviting you to come. You may come as you are, and tell the Lord, “Yes Lord, here I am. I believe in you, I trust you and I receive you into my life.”

This is the most important decision you can ever make. It determines your destiny.