

The “Whether” Forecast

- The weather plays an important factor in everything from playing sports to going on vacations. Games can be rained out and vacation spots can be more expensive during their busy seasons which are determined by the weather (*beach in the summer, ski resort in the winter*). Farmers also rely on the weather which controls their livelihood and ultimately the price of “meats and potatoes”. If it’s cold in Florida during the growing season the price of a gallon of orange juice usually can be expected to go way up. We really have no control over the “weather” (*spelled w-e-a-t-h-e-r*). But for the most part we do have control over the other “whether” (*spelled w-h-e-t-h-e-r*). For instance: a young woman might answer a persistent suitor who pesters her for a date that she isn’t sure “*whether or not she’ll be too busy*” on each of the occasions he asks her out which should be a sign to him “*whether or not*” to continue pursuing her. And there are other examples for this but there seems to be a “whether” forecast that has a habitual pattern to it that is most peculiar. It usually has a near 100% prediction rate. This extreme “whether” pattern usually happens on certain times of the year, sort of like hurricane season, but in this case only on Sundays. Hmmmm... Like hurricane season, they are usually predictable. Attendance seems to drop most during football season, NASCAR season, hunting season, fishing season, golfing season, family reunions season, etc., when “whether” or not to be in the assembly is determined by “whether” or not there’s a game (*or other activity*) going on. Some refer to their own personal “whether” as a factor when making plans to attend worship by licking their index finger and pointing it upward into the wind to make their determination as to “whether” they feel up to going or not. (*Obviously this person has a problem with their “heart health”. Not a physical heart problem, but a spiritual heart problem.*) The w-e-a-t-h-e-r can be a factor that could determine whether or not we meet at certain times when inclement but w-h-e-t-h-e-r we do or not (*even when feasible*) should never be questioned.

Rain or shine, God demands faithful obedience.

Heb 10:23 Let us hold fast the profession of *our* faith without wavering; (for He *is* faithful that promised;) 24 And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: 25 Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, **as the manner of some is**; but exhorting *one another*: and so much the more, **as ye see the day approaching**.

- We don’t have to be a meteorologist to predict that Sunday will come at the beginning of each and every week. We might not do well planning on how the weather might affect our vacation plans but we can most assuredly plan on how every “*first day of the week, when the disciples come together to break bread*” (*Acts 20:7*) will arrive on the exact time of each 52 weeks of the year until Jesus comes so we need to plan accordingly. When we are away on vacation we need to plan in advance to meet with the saints wherever gathered.

Fair “whether” Christians.

Pro 20:11 Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work *be* pure, and whether *it be* right.

Luk 6:45 A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.

Jas 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth *it* not, to him it is sin.

- Some might say “*But there’ll be no races or ball games in Heaven which is why we need to watch them here!*” True, there probably won’t be any ball games or races in **Heaven**. But then again, neither might you be there either if you forecast whether or not you plan to be in the assembly based on if you’d rather be at the game or race or any other such worldly event.

The first weather forecast.

Gen 2:4 These *are* the generations of the heavens and of the earth when they were created, in the day that the LORD God made the earth and the heavens, 5 And every plant of the field before it was in the earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: for the LORD God **had not caused it to rain upon the earth**, and *there was* not a man to till the ground. 6 But there went up a **mist from the earth**, and watered the whole face of the ground.

- At this point in time it had not rained yet and the whole earth was one continent.

Gen 6:3 And the LORD said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also *is* flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years. (*From the time of this statement, it would be 120 years before God would cleanse the earth via a catastrophic flood. Twenty years after this statement, God called Noah to build the ark because...*)

Gen 6:8 ... Noah found grace in the eyes of the LORD.

Gen 7:6 And Noah *was* six hundred years old when the flood of waters was upon the earth.

Gen 6:12 And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. 13 And God said unto Noah, **The end of all flesh is come before Me** (*God forecasted the earth’s destruction.*); for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth. 14 Make thee an ark of gopher wood; rooms shalt thou make in the ark, and shalt pitch it within and without with pitch. 15 And this *is the fashion* which thou shalt make it *of*: The length of the ark *shall be* three hundred cubits (*450 feet*), the breadth of it fifty cubits (*75 feet*), and the height of it thirty cubits (*45 feet*). 16 A window shalt thou make to the ark, and in a cubit (*18”*) shalt thou finish it above; and the door of the ark shalt thou set in the side thereof; *with* lower, second, and third *stories* shalt thou make it. 17 And, behold, I, even I, do bring a **flood of waters upon the earth**, to destroy all flesh, wherein *is* the breath of life, from under heaven; *and* everything that *is* in the earth shall die. 18 But with thee will I establish My covenant; and thou shalt come into the ark, thou, and thy sons, and thy wife, and thy sons’ wives with thee.

- Weather predictions help us prepare for the worst. Likewise “whether” predictions help us to prepare for the ultimate in catastrophic events.

1Pe 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that He might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit: 19 By which also He went and preached (*through Noah*) unto the spirits in prison (*those who were slaves to unrighteousness*); 20 Which sometime were disobedient, when once the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah, while the ark was a preparing, wherein few, that is, eight

souls were **saved by water**. **21** The **like figure** whereunto *even* **baptism doth also now save us** (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God,) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ: **22** Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto Him.

2Ti 1:10 ... by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath **abolished death**, and hath **brought life and immortality to light through the gospel**:

God predicted Israel's loyalty by the "whether".

Exo 16:2 And the whole congregation of the children of Israel murmured against Moses and Aaron in the wilderness: **3** And the children of Israel said unto them, Would to God we had died by the hand of the LORD in the land of Egypt, when we sat by the flesh pots, *and* when we did eat bread to the full; for ye have brought us forth into this wilderness, to kill this whole assembly with hunger. **4** Then said the LORD unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, **whether they will walk in My law, or no**.

Joh 6:31 Our fathers did eat manna in the desert; as it is written, He gave them bread from heaven to eat. **32** Then Jesus said unto them, *Verily, verily, I say unto you, Moses gave you not that bread from heaven; but My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven. 33 For the bread of God is He which cometh down from heaven, and giveth life unto the world. 34* Then said they unto Him, Lord, evermore give us this bread. **35** And Jesus said unto them, **I am the bread of life: he that cometh to Me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on Me shall never thirst.** (*Just as with Israel under the Old Covenant, so it is with us under the New. Our loyalty to God is based on whether or not we come to Jesus through obedient faith.*)

Deu 8:1 All the commandments which I command thee this day shall ye observe to do, that ye may live, and multiply, and go in and possess the land which the LORD sware unto your fathers. **2** And thou shalt remember all the way which the LORD thy God led thee these **forty years** in the wilderness, to humble thee, *and to prove thee*, to know what *was* in thine heart, **whether** thou wouldest keep His commandments, or no. **3** And He humbled thee, and suffered thee to hunger, and fed thee with manna, which thou knewest not, neither did thy fathers know; that He might make thee know that **man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the LORD** doth man live.

Luk 4:1 And Jesus being full of the Holy Ghost returned from Jordan, and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness, **2** Being **forty days tempted** of the devil. And in those days He did eat nothing: and when they were ended, He afterward hungered. **3** And the devil said unto Him, If Thou be the Son of God, command this stone that it be made bread. **4** And Jesus answered him, saying, **It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God.**

Jos 24:15 And if it seem evil unto you to serve the LORD, choose you this day whom ye will serve; **whether** the gods which your fathers served that *were* on the other side of the flood (*The Red Sea*), or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land ye dwell: but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.

The “whether” also helps us when searching for the truth.

Act 17:10 And the brethren immediately sent away Paul and Silas by night unto Berea: who coming *thither* went into the synagogue of the Jews. **11** These were more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they received the word with all readiness of mind, and searched the scriptures daily, **whether those things were so.**

2Co 13:5 **Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith;** prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?

1Jn 4:1 Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits **whether they are of God:** because many false prophets are gone out into the world.

Not only did God create the weather, Jesus was known to be the controller of it.

Mat 8:23 And when He was entered into a ship, His disciples followed Him. **24** And, behold, there arose a great tempest in the sea, insomuch that the ship was covered with the waves: but He was asleep. **25** And His disciples came to *Him*, and awoke Him, saying, Lord, save us: we perish. **26** And He saith unto them, **Why are ye fearful, O ye of little faith?** Then He arose, and rebuked the winds and the sea; and there was a great calm. **27** But the men marveled, saying, What manner of man is this, that **even the winds and the sea obey Him!**

- If the winds and sea obeyed the voice of Jesus, shouldn't Jesus be in control of your “whether” forecast?

Joh 12:48 He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth not My words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.

The “whether” will determine everyone’s fate.

Ecc 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep His commandments: for this *is* the whole (*duty*) of man. **14** For God shall bring every work into **judgment**, with every secret thing, **whether it be good**, or **whether it be evil.**

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the **judgment** seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things *done* in *his* body, according to that he hath done, **whether it be good or bad.**

Rom 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; **whether** of sin unto death, **or** of obedience unto righteousness? **17** But God be thanked, that ye **were** the servants of sin, **but ye have obeyed** from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. **18** Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

Mat 16:1 The Pharisees also with the Sadducees came, and tempting desired Him that He would shew them a sign from heaven. **2** He answered and said unto them, **When it is evening, ye say, It will be fair weather: for the sky is red. 3 And in the morning, It will be foul weather today: for the sky is red and lowring. O ye hypocrites, ye can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times?**

- Just as the Pharisees and Sadducees of Jesus' time couldn't discern the signs of the encroaching Roman army and the end of the Mosaic age, there are many today who do not discern the end of all ages and Christ's plan to save in the meantime.

Rom 13:11 And that, knowing the time, that now *it is* high time to awake out of sleep: for now *is* our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Jas 4:14 Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

- Whether you believe in the end of all things physical or not, doesn't mean it won't happen. Whether or not you believe in Heaven and Hell, doesn't mean they don't exist. Whether or not you believe in God Who created all things along with His Son and Spirit, doesn't mean They don't exist. Whether or not you decide to follow Jesus through His death, burial and resurrection in immersion for the forgiveness of your sins, is up to you. Whether or not you believe baptism has anything to do with the salvation of your soul will not change what the Bible says on it. Your soul will be saved or lost depending on your desire to obey God. You hold **that** forecast in your hands. But know this, that...

2Pe 3:6 ... the world that then was, being overflowed with water, perished: 7 But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the **same word** are kept in store ("And God said... [Gen 1:3]), reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men.

- What is the forecast for where your eternal soul will exist? Do you know?

#1. Have you heard?

Romans 10:14 ... "how shall they believe in Him **Whom they have not heard?**"

#2. Do you believe?

Heb 11:6 ... "for he that commeth to God **must believe that He is...**"

#3. Have you repented?

Act 3:19 ... "**Repent** ... be converted, that your sins may be blotted out..."

#4. Have you acknowledged Christ as the Son of God?

Mat 10:32 "**Whosoever shall confess Me before men, him will I confess also before My Father Who is in Heaven.**"

#5. Have your sins been washed away?

1 Pet 3:21 "...baptism doth **also** now save us..."

#6. If you've done all these things, have you remained faithful?

Romans 6:4 "...we also should walk in newness of life."

#7. Are you growing?

2Pe 3:18 But grow in grace, and *in* the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To Him *be* glory both now and forever. Amen.

- If you need help to discern whether you are saved or lost, let us assist you toward making your eternal forecast clear.

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