

**Pastor Brian's
Mid Week Message
June 19, 2019**

LONG DAYS!

This Friday marks the “summer solstice”; the official (calendar) beginning of summer and the day that the length of time that the sun spends above the horizon is longer than on any other day of the year. On June 21st, at exactly 11:54am EDT (plan your parties accordingly), the direct rays of the sun will reach their farthest point north of the equator as well. It will most certainly be a momentous occasion! Once this takes place... everything goes down hill from there. Already on Saturday the days will begin to shorten, and each and every day from there on the sun will reach a zenith (like that word?) a little bit lower than the one before until the imminent return of winter on December 21st (11:19pm EST). That means that the onset of winter is a mere 26 weeks away! Time is a fickle beast. It always seems that there’s too much or not enough, and none of us knows just how much of it we have. There will “come a time” when time runs out; there’ll be no more of it. And when time runs out everyone who has not yet met their Maker by that time will immediately do so. The question is “Who will be ready at that time?” *“Blessed are those servants whom the master finds awake when he comes. Truly, I say to you, he will dress himself for service and have them recline at the table, and he will come and serve them.”* Luke 12:37 These are the words of Jesus as He teaches about His return in glory and judgment. Those servants who are “awake” are those who are wakened and sustained by faith in Him; His Divine identity, His completed work and His promises. Those whom the Lord finds faithful will enter into His glory and rest, and feast at His table forever. Those who are outside this faith, and are lost in darkness, will be forever banished from His presence and all His goodness to a place called “Hell”. People today don’t like to hear about hell or acknowledge it’s existence, which does not make it any less real. When this will happen is unknown to us. Jesus goes on to warn us; *“You also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect him.”* Luke 12:40 “At a time we do not expect him”...that ought to give us a sense of urgency in sharing the message of Jesus and the salvation He brings and freely offers to all. I’m sure we all have people within our circles of life that we would not want to even taste hell, let alone spend eternity there. The heart of God, which should be ours as well, is that no one be lost; “God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.” (1 Timothy 2:4) Each day we have opportunities do demonstrate the love of Christ, in our words and in our actions, and give testimony to His grace. Let’s all pray that the Holy Spirit gives us the ability to recognize these and to respond.