

Once In A Lifetime!

September 28, 2003

One of the "coolest" things about the town of Wellesley is the twelve-inch (diameter of the lens) telescope located inside the observatory on the grounds of Wellesley College. The college opens this observatory to the general public at various times during the week for both casual and serious lovers of astronomy.

Well, you can just imagine the buzz created by the recent close pass of the planet Mars. Making its closest pass to earth in 60,000 years (that's right - sixty thousand), hundreds of folks made the trek up to the observatory to peer through the large telescope. The effort was more than worth it for you could clearly make out the polar ice caps on the top and bottom of the planet as well as see individual craters and those mysterious "lines" on the surface of the planet (perhaps Martian interstate highways???).

But here's what made my ears perk up ... one 19 year old Wellesley College student described this whole affair as a "once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I'm only going to live 100 years."

Hmmm ... I wonder what that same student would say to me if I told them that receiving Jesus Christ could quite possibly be a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity and the return is not a hundred years, but eternity. I have always found Jesus' words to the crowd gathered in Luke chapter twelve to be quite sobering. Telling them a parable involving a rich man who hoarded all his belongings, Jesus says to the crowd via the parable, "You fools ... this very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself." (Lk. 12:20).

So many folks hear the gospel and reject on the grounds that they can think about it "later" ... sometimes "later" never comes. The famous evangelist D.L. Moody once said his biggest regret was not giving an invitation to receive Jesus Christ on the last night of one of his Chicago Crusades. That same night, the great Chicago fire occurred where thousands perished - some who were most likely in attendance at his Crusade.

60,000 years is a long time - but it's only a blink compared to eternity. If you hear the gospel today, and you have not received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior from sin, consider it a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity!