

PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

1300 E. Boynton St. • Hamilton • www.parkheightscoc.com

Thus Saith the Lord

PANIC

By Jeff Sweeten

While cruising the neighborhoods recently on a mission for the Lion's Club, I happened upon a doe whose expression indicated that she'd just seen headlights. Bounding across an otherwise serene suburban lawn, she careened off various implements of yard art before finally making it to the safety of an outlying brush-line. Then, she paused nonchalantly, looking around as if embarrassed by her much adieu about nothing, like the guy who falls in public and gets up with a sheepish grin, looking around to see who saw.

Perceived or real, panic is an adrenaline rush. This doe panicked and her journey to safety was intense, urgent and focused. There was no doubt in the pea-sized brain of that doe that if she didn't make it to safety, her continued existence was in jeopardy. Nothing else mattered; no obstacle would hinder her mission. She was going to make it to safety.

In contrast, the deer that wander across my back yard each evening, who've just come from my neighbor's feeder, traverse their path obtusely; it's always been safe, it's familiar. When I step out on the porch to observe, look up like cows at a passing train and simply continue their journey.

These two scenarios evoke the contrast between how it is now and how it will be when the Lord comes His second and final time (Hebrews 9:28). Those who have, in the comfort and apathy of their everyday life, mindlessly meandered through meaningless living with no concern for God's will, *"in the twinkling of an eye"* (1 Corinthians 15:52), will be called into account for their words and works, *"whether good or bad"* (2 Corinthians 5:10). But, the panic will only last for a fleeting moment. There will be no frantic surge of adrenaline to propel one to safety and no time for a change of course or mind. It will be Judgment Day.

"Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth fled away. And there was found no place for them" (Revelation 20:11). And, they will say to the mountains and rocks, *"Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb!"* (Revelation 6:16). Panic is directly proportional to the intensity of the threat. Perhaps, for many (Matthew 7:13-14), it's time to panic!

JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!

SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship

WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130