

LIVING IN THE MOMENT

The masses rush head-long through life never slowing down from their frenzied pace to examine the direction of their lives. Our schedules are crammed full of running “hither and yon,” leaving little or no time to take inventory of our journey with God. We are so busy that we seemingly have no time to reflect on our past or look to whatever future might lie ahead. This frantic lifestyle has caused so many to simply live for the moment. The Bible affirms that we have not been promised life beyond the present (Prov.27:1). Yet, it is utterly foolish to restrict our view of life to the “right here and right now.” Peter speaks of one who goes through life with blinders upon his eyes: “But he that lacketh these things is blind, and cannot see afar off, and hath forgotten that he was purged from his old sins” (2 Pet.1:9). The child of God who fails to mature in the faith will constantly struggle to see beyond today.

We must never forget from whence we have come. I am not referring to our cultural, social, political, economic, or educational backgrounds. I speak concerning our undone spiritual condition before being washed in the saving blood of Jesus Christ. “As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one...For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom.3:10, 23). Had it none been for the grace of God and the vicarious death of Christ on Calvary’s cruel cross, we would still be in our sins and without hope: “That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world” (Eph.2:12). Gratitude and thanksgiving abound in the heart of the child of God who constantly remembers his condition before his obedience to the gospel.

We must also never lose sight of where we are headed. Those who have been forgiven of their past sins are sojourning toward eternal life. We must firmly fix our eyes on the goal ahead of us lest we be side-tracked from the pathway of the redeemed. “If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. Set your affections on things above, not on things of the earth” (Col.3:1-2). Christians must see beyond the mortal coil, and remain transfixed on the realm of eternal day. “While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal” (2 Cor.4:18). The ability to look beyond the here and now will remind us that we are strangers and pilgrims upon the earth (Heb.11:13).

May we ever be mindful that the decisions we make now, and the actions we undertake in the present have repercussions that echo into eternity. We cannot be so foolish as to live only in the moment, never pausing to consider how the choices we make will affect our souls and the souls of our children and on through subsequent generations. As we grow and mature in the faith of Jesus Christ, we will lock our gaze upon heaven, while never forgetting all that God has done for us.

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