

"YESTERDAY...TODAY...AND TOMORROW"

INTRODUCTION:

A. It has been said: Yesterday is a canceled check.
Tomorrow is a promissory note...
Today is cash in hand...

B. By learning how to properly look at these three periods of time, we will be more successful in every aspect of life.

BODY:

I. YESTERDAY.

A. Were the "good old days" really so good?

B. These are the good old days of later times. Why not make them something you can look back on with pride and not shame?

C. Yesterday is DECEPTIVE:

1. Lk. 17:26-29 And as it was in the days of Noah, so it will be also in the days of the Son of Man: They ate, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was also in the days of Lot: They ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built; but on the day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all.

2. The past is no proof of the future. 2 Pet. 3:3-7 Knowing this first: that scoffers will come in the last days, walking according to their own lusts, and saying, "Where is the promise of His coming? For since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of creation." For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men

D. Yesterday is EDUCATIONAL.

1. Rom. 15:4 For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.

2. 1 Cor. 10:1-6 1 Moreover, brethren, I do not want you to be unaware that all our fathers were under the cloud, all passed through the sea, all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea, all ate the same spiritual food, and all drank the

same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ. But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness. Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

E. Yesterday is UNCHANGEABLE.

1. Ecc. 11:3. **If the clouds are full of rain, They empty themselves upon the earth; And if a tree falls to the south or the north, In the place where the tree falls, there it shall lie.**

2. Phil. 3:13-14 Brethren, I do not count myself to have apprehended; but one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.

II. TODAY.

A. What is today? Something to be endured or to enjoy.

B. Each day is a gift to you from God.

C. Today is DECEPTIVE.

1. Eph. 5:15-16 See then that you walk circumspectly, not as fools but as wise, 16 redeeming the time, because the days are evil.

2. Rom. 13:11-13 And do this, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep; for now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand. Therefore let us cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armor of light. Let us walk properly, as in the day, not in revelry and drunkenness, not in lewdness and lust, not in strife and envy.

D. Today is our OPPORTUNITY.

1. Heb. 3:12-15 Beware, brethren, lest there be in any of you an evil heart of unbelief in departing from the living God; but exhort one another daily, while it is called "Today," lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. For we have become partakers of Christ if we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, while it is said: "Today, if you will hear His voice, Do not harden your hearts as in the rebellion."

2. 2 Cor. 6:2 For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, And in the day of salvation I have helped you." Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.

E. Today is FLEETING.

1. Jn. 9:4 I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work.

2. Job. 7:6-10. **My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, And are spent without hope. Oh, remember that my life is a breath! My eye will never again see good. The eye of him who sees me will see me no more; While your eyes are upon me, I shall no longer be. As the cloud disappears and vanishes away, So he who goes down to the grave does not come up. He shall never return to his house, nor shall his place know him anymore.**

III. TOMORROW.

A. Tomorrow is the world's greatest labor saving device.

B. If only there were some way to do all we planned to do tomorrow.

C. Tomorrow is DECEPTIVE.

1. Acts 24:25 Now as he reasoned about righteousness, self-control, and the judgment to come, Felix was afraid and answered, "Go away for now; when I have a convenient time I will call for you. **There may never be a Convenient season.**

2. Most folks die thinking they will have tomorrow.

D. Tomorrow is UNCERTAIN.

1. Prov. 27:1. **Do not boast about tomorrow, For you do not know what a day may bring forth.**

2. Jas. 4:13-15 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.

E. Tomorrow NEVER COMES.

1. Tomorrow we may die 1 Cor. 15:32. If, in the manner of men, I have fought with beasts at Ephesus, what advantage is it to me? If the dead do not rise, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die!"

2. When we make plans without God we become fools Lk. 12:13-21 Then one from the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, tell my brother to divide the inheritance with me." But He said to him, "Man, who made Me a judge or an arbitrator over you?"

And He said to them, "Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses." Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: "The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, 'What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?' So he said, 'I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, "Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry." ' But God said to him, 'Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?' So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God."

CONCLUSION:

- A. We cannot relive the past.
- B. We cannot know what the future holds, or if there is one.
- C. We can use today to the fullest, taking advantage of all the opportunities God has given to us.
- D. What will you say about yesterday tomorrow?