

## What Lies Ahead

Philippians 3:7-14

- We live in uncertain and challenging times.
- Many of us are like King Nebuchadnezzar of whom it was said, "...*while on your bed **your thoughts turned to what would take place in the future...***" (Daniel 2:29)
- We live among people who don't know if we can "**smile at the future**" (Prov. 31:25).
- What is to be our perspective on "what lies ahead" (Phil. 3:14)?

### We don't know!

- **No man knows** what the future holds!
- **According to Solomon** blessed with wisdom from God - we learn that we simply do not know what will happen in our future or when events may take place (Eccles. 3:22; 6:12; 8:7; 10:14).
  - Eccl 8:7, "If no one knows what will happen, who can tell him when it will happen?"
- James teaches us that "**you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away**" (James 4:14).

### Therefore, don't be anxious!

- **Why should we worry?**
  - Matthew 6:24-34.
    - "...**do not be anxious for tomorrow; for tomorrow will care for itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own**", vs. 34
  - 3 keys to overcoming worry in this context
    - Father – vs. 32
    - Faith – vs. 30
    - First – vs. 33
  - Too many people live their lives crushed between **the regrets of yesterday and the anxiety of tomorrow.**
  - Bottom line? It's sinful!

### God will provide what we need

- The question is, **will we learn to be content?** (Phil. 4:11-13; 1 Tim. 6:6-8)
- It's how we "**gain**" our lives! (1 Tim. 6:6-9)
  - Contentment (vs. 6): an inward sense of sufficiency. Content (vs. 8) – enough
- Jesus taught us to pray for our "**daily bread**" Matt. 6:11

### Plans will be made

- We still must make plans. Prov. 16:1-3,
- A couple of important points re: our plans (Prov. 21:5)
  1. All of our plans should be **consistent with, and based on, God's word.**
  2. Appreciate the responsibility we bear to "**commit our works to the Lord**" while we make our plans.
- Respect the fact that God has the authority to give an "**answer**" to our plans (Prov. 19:21).
  - Consider Paul's plans (Rom. 1:13).
- **Don't be arrogant** or presumptuous! James 4:13-17 (note vs. 16).

### Both good & bad will come

- Eccles. 3:1-8, life contains both.
- There will be both days “of **prosperity**” and days “of **adversity**” (Eccles. 7:14)
- Remember again James 4:14, “...you don’t know what your life will be like tomorrow”.

### Opportunities will come

- Be assured that opportunities to be of service to God and others will come. John 4:35,
- Paul knew that whatever time he had left in this life would mean opportunities to serve God. Phil. 1:21ff
- Will we be looking for such opportunities? Will we be ready? Titus 3:1; 1 Peter 1:13
  - The role of wisdom, preparation and courage. 2 Peter 1:13-15; 2 Tim. 2:24-26
- Will we exercise wisdom in regards to these opportunities that come our way? Col. 4:5.

### Temptations will also come

- The need to “**take heed**” (1 Cor. 10:12-13)
  - We are promised a “**way of escape**”.
- The question is, will we put ourselves in harms way? Romans 13:13-14
- Know our “adversary” is relentless and will never quit! 1 Peter 5:8
- Will we be ready to “**flee**” (1 Cor. 6:18; 1 Tim. 6:11; 2 Tim. 2:22).
- Our faith and conviction will be challenged. Acts 20:29-32

### A day of judgment will come

- Only God knows when (Matt. 24:36; Acts 17:31).
- Will we act as if it is not coming? (Matt. 24:37-39; Amos 6:3)
- The final judgment will be
  - **Certain** (Rom. 14:10; 2 Cor. 5:10),
  - **Final** (Luke 16:26; 2 Thess. 1:8-9),
  - **Universal** (Acts 17:30-31; Rom. 14:11-12),
  - **Thorough** (Eccles. 12:14; 2 Cor. 5:10; 1 Cor. 4:5) and
  - **Fair** (Acts 17:31).

### Our eternal destiny

- We will either be welcomed in or told to depart (Matt. 25:31ff).
- We will spend eternity with the Lord or cast forever from His presence (1 Thess. 4:17; 2 Thess. 1:9).
- It was the reward of eternal life with the Father in heaven that Paul said “**lies ahead**” and that he “**pressed on**” towards every day of his life (Phil. 3:13).
- “**In the future**” Paul knew there was “laid up for me the crown of righteousness”, 2 Tim. 4:7-8

### Do You Believe?

- As Paul faced a perilous journey from Caesarea to Rome, he knew not what would transpire, but he did know how God promised him it would end.
- “...for **I believe God**, that it will **turn out exactly as I have been told**” (Acts 27:25)
- Will we today discern our future?
  - Deut. 32:29, “*Would that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would discern their future!*”