

## "OUR TOMORROWS"

### I. James 4:13-17 & 1 Corinthians 15:30-34

#### **A. Today I want us to talk about our tomorrows...**

- 1) Sometimes people make big plans for the future...
- 2) Kids heading back to school or off to college. People looking to retire.
- 3) But then others look to the future with a depressing level of fatalism.

#### **B. James 4:13-17 reminds us Who is in charge of our future...**

- 1) Planning presumptuously reminds us of the Woody Allen quip, *"If you want to make God laugh, tell Him your plans."*
- 2) When you realize you're a mere mist, here today and gone tomorrow, making serious plans is a little more challenging... (I've heard of taking a bull by the horns but it's never made me want to try it.)
- 3) Question: When we make plans, who has our chief consideration?

#### **C. 1 Corinthians 15:30-34 dismisses the notion of Christian fatalism...**

- 1) Defending the truth of the resurrection, Paul argues, 'Would we endanger ourselves, put our lives on the line, face wild beasts for things untrue?'
- 2) If there is no hope of resurrection (*If Jesus was not God and His atonement for our sins failed*) Paul, quoting Isaiah 22:13, argues, *"Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."* But Paul was not a Christian fatalist!
- 3) There is something worth living for and worth dying for! Heb. 3:12-13.

#### **D. Someday you may be told by a doctor you've only got x amount of time...**

- 1) It could be a few years, a few months, or a matter of days...
- 2) It behooves us to understand that the Scriptures have already told us our days are numbered... We're given a limited amount of tomorrows... Heb 9:27-28.
- 3) Are your tomorrows all planned out? Or do you deem your tomorrows as meaningless, mere futile purposeless days to occupy the earth?

#### **E. Let me ask some provoking questions:**

- 1) Who is at the center of your plans? Career plans? Retirement plans?
- 2) If all your plans were to be abruptly changed before tomorrow, where or to whom would you direct your trust? Whose future are you living for?
- 3) If you are a Christian fatalist (or a closet deist) what if anything is worth living for or dying for? What is your purpose? What do you hope for the day after your last tomorrow? And what do you make of the martyrs who gave their all? (Were they mere fools living under a cloud of deception?)

#### **F. 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 puts it all into perspective...**

- 1) We are not destined for wrath but for salvation through Jesus Christ.
- 2) This verse changes everything with respect to how we live today and how we face our tomorrows, no matter how many of those tomorrows we're given.
- 3) Personalize this verse for yourself--see if it resonates...

#### **G. Lyrics to, "Because He Lives."**

Close with Prayer...

### Scriptures & Videos

"Because He Lives" by The David Crowder Band  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3qtcqwYO2E4>

The Gap Of Eternity--Matt Chandler  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cV13qMpv6Z4>

Sermon Jam--Abortion--John Piper  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HF8h68TjvIQ>

Church at the U.S. Capital? (Thank you Rosie Brookover!)  
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=du36Drz4Yjo>

Sunday Morning by Igniter Media (Hilarious!)

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ydf4gqiapBE>

Back To Church Rap :-)

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nx\\_P\\_afu\\_tU](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nx_P_afu_tU)

### The Frog and the Fortuneteller

Source Unknown

Fortuneteller, gazing into crystal ball, says to a frog: *"You are going to meet a beautiful young woman. From the moment she sets eyes on you she will have an insatiable desire to know all about you. She will be compelled to get close to you--you'll fascinate her."* Frog: *"Where am I? At a singles club?"* Fortuneteller: *"No--Biology class."*

### James 4:13-17 (NIV)

13 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. 15 Instead, you ought to say, "If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that." 16 As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. 17 Anyone, then, who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.

### 1 Corinthians 15:30-34 (NIV)

30 And as for us, why do we endanger ourselves every hour? 31 I die every day--I mean that, brothers--just as surely as I glory over you in Christ Jesus our Lord. 32 If I fought wild beasts in Ephesus for merely human reasons, what have I gained? If the dead are not raised, "Let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die." 33 Do not be misled: "Bad company corrupts good character." 34 Come back to your senses as you ought, and stop sinning; for there are some who are ignorant of God--I say this to your shame.

### Hebrews 3:12-13 (NIV)

12 See to it, brothers, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. 13 But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called Today, so that none of you may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness.

### Hebrews 9:27-28 (ESV)

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

### 1 Thessalonians 5:9-11 (ESV)

9 For God has not destined us for wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us so that whether we are awake or asleep we might live with him. 11 Therefore encourage one another and build one another up, just as you are doing.

### Because He Lives

By Gloria & William Gaither

#### God sent His Son

They called Him Jesus

He came to love, heal and forgive

He lived and died to buy my pardon

An empty grave is there to prove my Saviour lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow

Because He lives all fear is gone

Because I know He holds the future

And life is worth the living just because He lives

And then one day

I'll cross that river

I'll fight life's final war with pain

And then as death gives way to vict'ry

I'll see the lights of glory and I'll know he lives

Because He lives I can face tomorrow  
Because He lives all fear is gone  
Because I know He holds the future  
And life is worth the living just because He lives

### **Bonus Stuff**

Psalm 90:1-6 (NIV)

1 Lord, you have been our dwelling place throughout all generations. 2 Before the mountains were born or you brought forth the earth and the world, from everlasting to everlasting you are God. 3 You turn men back to dust, saying, "Return to dust, O sons of men." 4 For a thousand years in your sight are like a day that has just gone by, or like a watch in the night. 5 You sweep men away in the sleep of death; they are like the new grass of the morning-- 6 though in the morning it springs up new, by evening it is dry and withered.

Job 40:1-4 (NIV)

1 The LORD said to Job: 2 "Will the one who contends with the Almighty correct him? Let him who accuses God answer him!" 3 Then Job answered the LORD: 4 "I am unworthy--how can I reply to you? I put my hand over my mouth.

Job 7:6-7 (Amplified)

6 My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope. 7 Oh, remember that my life is but wind (a puff, a breath, a sob); my eye shall see good no more.

Job 9:25-26 (NIV)

25 My days are swifter than a runner; they fly away without a glimpse of joy. 26 They skim past like boats of papyrus, like eagles swooping down on their prey.

Job 14:1-2 (NLT)

1 How frail is humanity! How short is life, how full of trouble! 2 We blossom like a flower and then wither. Like a passing shadow, we quickly disappear.

Psalm 39:4-8 (NLT)

4 "Lord, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered--how fleeting my life is. 5 You have made my life no longer than the width of my hand. My entire lifetime is just a moment to you; at best, each of us is but a breath." *Interlude* 6 We are merely moving shadows, and all our busy rushing ends in nothing. We heap up wealth, not knowing who will spend it. 7 And so, Lord, where do I put my hope? My only hope is in you. 8 Rescue me from my rebellion. Do not let fools mock me.

Psalm 103:15-18 (ESV)

15 As for man, his days are like grass; he flourishes like a flower of the field; 16 for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more. 17 But the steadfast love of the LORD is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, 18 to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

Hudson Taylor on Making Plans

Hudson Taylor had definite convictions about how God's work should be done. We can make our best plans and try to carry them out in our own strength. Or we can make careful plans and ask God to bless them. *"Yet another way of working is to begin with God; to ask His plans, and to offer ourselves to Him to carry out His purposes."* - W. Wiersbe, *Wycliffe Handbook of Preaching and Preachers*, p. 243.

Quote by Jean-Pierre de Caussade

*"To escape the distress caused by regret for the past or fear about the future, this is the rule to follow: leave the past to the infinite mercy of God, the future to His good providence; give the present wholly to His love by being faithful to His grace."*

- Jean-Pierre de Caussade in, [The Joy of the Saints](#).

*"Never be afraid to trust an unknown future to a known God."* - Corrie Ten Boom

**Quote by Abraham Davenport**

**Abraham Davenport (1715-1789) was an American politician who served in the Connecticut legislature during the American Revolution, and as a Colonel, in the Connecticut State Militia. He is famous for his response to New England's Dark Day, which many feared was a sign that the Last Judgment was approaching. Upon the motion to adjourn, Davenport spoke: *"I am against an adjournment. The day of judgment is either approaching, or it is not. If it is not, there is no cause of an adjournment: if it is, I choose to be found doing my duty. I wish therefore that candles may be brought."* - [http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Abraham\\_Davenport](http://en.wikiquote.org/wiki/Abraham_Davenport)**