

Tomorrow
Romans 13:11-14
By
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FB Meyer recorded: "The Oriental shepherd was always ahead of his sheep. He was in front. Any attempt upon them had to take him into account. Now God is down in front. He is in the tomorrows. It is tomorrow that fills men with dread. But God is there already, and all the tomorrows of our life have to pass before Him before they can get to us."¹ A wonderful thought and practical comforter indeed.

It is indeed sad that so often we fail to view our tomorrows from the perspective God would give us. The future is that mystical unknown that so many approach in so many different ways. We come to the close of calendar year 2001 and celebrate the soon coming of 2002. How many boundary lines do we set on time! We acknowledge the eternity of our God and yet we are bound by time and the markers we place upon it. Each marker has some significance to each one and each one determines the type significance it will have. Because we do such we take three basic approaches to the time we call tomorrow.

- I. We approach the future *fearfully* (anxiety & trembling).
 - A. We are often worried about many things, Matthew 6:34. RC Trench was many years ago the Archbishop of Dublin, and had a morbid fear of becoming paralyzed. One evening at a party, the lady he sat next to at the table heard him muttering mournfully to himself, "It's happened at last — total insensibility of the right leg." "Your grace," the lady said, "it may comfort you to learn that it is my leg you are pinching."²
 - B. We are afraid of the significant events it may hold.
 1. Bills due.
 2. Certain birthdays.
 - a. Some children can't wait until they are 18 or 21.
 - b. Many adults dread becoming 40.
 3. Health reasons.
- II. We approach the future *frantically* (eager anticipation & intricate planning).
 - A. Some are sure their plans are going to be carried out as they anticipated. James 4:14
Yet 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.
 - B. Some are just sure tomorrow has to be better than today.
 1. Feel better tomorrow so write off today.
 2. Circumstances will be different tomorrow so do nothing today.
 3. Always remember that today is the tomorrow you worried about yesterday.
- III. We approach the future *faithfully* (commitment to Christ that is active today), Rom 13:11-14.
 - A. Committed to seize the opportunities tomorrow will provide because you have made a habit of seizing them today in the service and power of Christ.
 1. 2 Corinthians 6:2 for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU" ;behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"
 2. John 7:6 Jesus therefore *said to them, "My time is not yet at hand, but your time is always opportune."
 - B. Determined to overcome the oppositions that try to rob our joy of fellowship with Christ.
 - C. Assured that our eternal God and Father has set the boundaries of time according to His

divine and perfect plan. Acts 17:26 and He made from one, every nation of mankind to live on all the face of the earth, having determined *their* appointed times, and the boundaries of their habitation,

- D. Comforted in the peace of God because all things are under His control.
- E. Confident in the word of God because it is eternal. Two children were playing on a hillside when they noticed that the hour was nearing sunset. One said wonderingly, "See how far the sun has gone! A little while ago it was right over that tree, and now it is low down in the sky." The other answered, "Only it isn't the sun that moves; it is the earth. You know, Father told us.." The first one shook his head. The sun did move, for he had seen it, and the earth did not move, for he had been standing on it all the time. "I know what I see," he said triumphantly. "And I believe Father" said his brother.³

So it is today. Some believe only what their senses reveal and others trust in the word of God and the God of the word. How applicable it is to the approaches we take to tomorrow. Some worry and fret over matters that have not and probably never will happen, or events over which they have no control. Others discount the present as useless with an eye totally toward tomorrow. Still others have their lives and schemes all calculated out so they think themselves in complete control of their own destiny. All those will be disappointed. But those who approach tomorrow with implicit faith in Christ and trusting in His eternal word and power will do so with the confidence that is born in the present.

The future should not be totally discounted nor should it be clung to as one's only hope. Let all our tomorrows be bathed in the light of the present and eternal Christ. *We do not know what all tomorrow holds, but we can know who holds tomorrow.* A relationship with Christ breeds the right approach to our future because it is based on our dependence on Him who provides grace sufficient for our every need in time and eternity. Yes, God is indeed out there in our tomorrows. But more importantly He is present in our midst today.

¹Walter B. Knight, *Knight's Master book of New Illustrations* (Grand Rapids: Eerdman's Publishing, 1982), 437.

²Paul Lee Tan, *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations* (Rockville: Assurance Publishers, 1984), 7561.

³*Pulpit Helps*, December, 1989, 14.