

“DO NOT BOAST ABOUT TOMORROW”

By Keith Greer

“Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring forth.” {Proverbs 27:1} Time regulates everything we do. Sadly, many people take time for granted and make many plans without considering God. Solomon gave a solemn warning regarding boasting about tomorrow. Let’s consider some things about which we would do well not to boast:

Life. “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.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil.” {James 4:13-16} How quickly our lives can end. In the twinkling of an eye, a human life can be snuffed out by an accident or medical problem. A few years ago, a 10-year-old boy in my grandson’s class lost his life in a freak accident at the hands of his own brother! Experience and observation teaches us that death is no respecter of persons. It comes to all men {Hebrews 9:27}; we just don’t know when it will arrive.

Prosperity. “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.” {Luke 12:18-21} The Bible clearly teaches us to be careful not to put too much faith in material wealth. Jesus said that we ought to store up true riches in heaven. {Matthew 6:19-21} If you lost all your physical wealth tomorrow, would you also lose your faith in God? Sadly, it often does because we forget to remember the fleeting nature of this world’s temporal things.

Flesh. “So on a set day Herod, arrayed in royal apparel, sat on his throne and gave an oration to them. And the people kept shouting, ‘The voice of a god and not of a man!’ Then immediately an angel of the Lord struck him, because he did not give glory to God. And he was eaten by worms and died.” {Acts 12:21-23}

Unfortunately, Herod placed too much emphasis on the flesh—namely the pride of life. Our bodies and achievements will one day decay and be forgotten. All fleshly things are destined to decay and die. We need not boast about the things we accomplish in the flesh; by tomorrow they’ll be forgotten and never again remembered!

Religious works. “So likewise you, when you have done all those things which you are commanded, say, ‘We are unprofitable servants. We have done what was our duty to do.’” {Luke 17:10} Many brag about all the things they’ve accomplished for the Lord. It reminds me of the Pharisee praying in the temple and providing God with a list of all the work he’d done. {Luke 18:9-14} Some boast about

things they've done in God's name which He will not accept because they were done in violation of His authority. We need to remember Jesus' teaching in Matthew 6:1-5 – if we do our works in secret, God will reward us openly!

Yes, time is a very precious commodity that is always on God's side, not man's. He controls time's end; we do not. We need not be boastful but thankful to God for all the rich blessing He bestows upon us in this life. Could it be as God's children we are taking for granted one of God's greatest gifts for granted – TIME! It's fine to make plans for the future; tomorrow, next week, next year, or even beyond. Yet, remember only if "the Lord's will." Are you guilty of boasting? ***