

THE BEREAN

"...EXAMINING THE SCRIPTURES DAILY..." (Acts 17:11)

TODAY OR TOMORROW

A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES

PART FIFTY OF SIXTY FOUR

How often are our minds filled with schemes and plans for today and tomorrow? We have many things we are going to do. It is not wrong to plan, but it is foolish to plan as if we were lord of all our tomorrows. James warns, "Come now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into this city, and spend a year there, and trade, and get gain: whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. What is your life? For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:13,14). The person who plans his whole life without considering God is engaged in folly. His business may be honest and his travel justified, but there is one thing he does not know. "Ye know not what shall be on the morrow."

Because we know not what shall be tomorrow, we need ever to look to God who has a will for our life. If tomorrow brings distress, perplexity, or a reversal of our fortunes, we need to know God. If tomorrow brings the end of our vaporous life, we need to be ready to depart. "What unutterable folly and wrong to plan your life without reference and deference unto Him!" (Brown)

We know not what opportunities may come tomorrow. We need to be prepared to meet each one in a way to glorify Christ. Perhaps our plans are so rigid that we cannot pursue an opportunity for Christ. How many doors of opportunity to preach have been closed because Christians had all their tomorrows planned and could not enter?

The uncertainty of tomorrow is clear to many minds who, not knowing God, cringe in fear and anxiety. They are not considered by James, but their fear is because they "know not." To such as these Jesus says, "Be not therefore anxious...seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness..." (Matthew 6:31,33).

For us the future must remain uncertain. Therefore we should always consider God's will in all our plans. There is no certainty in life except that sooner or later it ends. Life is as fleeting as morning fog that lives only until the sun drives it away. Everything ought to be planned with the attitude of "if the Lord wills." The rich man thought he had "many days," but had none (Luke 12:19,20). "Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth" (Proverbs 27:1).

(B. G. Echols)

CHURCH OF CHRIST

412 East King Street

Shippensburg, Pa. 17257