

THE BEREAN

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

"FOR YE ARE A VAPOR"

*A STUDY OF THE EPISTLE OF JAMES
PART FIFTY ONE OF SIXTY FOUR*

How badly we need to have impressed upon our minds the fact that life is brief. We are not going to be here for long. "For ye are a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (James 4:14). Even a full life is only a moment in eternity; a mist that soon disappears. We are as a cloud, an unsubstantial, unstable, and uncertain element. We know nothing about tomorrow. It may come and find us gone. What a shattering thought!

Since life is short and uncertain, we cannot do all that we wish. We must be selective in the use of our few short years. The least important things must give way to those items of lasting import. Some things must have priority. What is first in your life? To what do you give first place? Is it God? If not, when the vapor of your life dissipates, what will you have? "Seek ye first his kingdom, and his righteousness..." (Matthew 6:33).

As life is short already, why shorten it with destructive practices of sin? Some reduce their lives by using tobacco; others alcohol. Too many are burning away most of their life by eating themselves into an early grave. Do you want to shorten your life by

using it only to feed the body? "Meats for the belly, and the belly for meats; but God shall bring to nought both it and them" (I Corinthians 6:13). Certainly we must eat to live, but we do not live to eat. Instead, we live to serve God.

Life should be precious since it is so short. We are all soon to put aside this earthly tabernacle. Why not use our time in those spiritual endeavors that will last? Jesus lived only about thirty-three years, but changed the flow of human history. He had but a short time and was diligent in doing His Father's will. We have but a few days to do what God wants of us. Why spend those few days serving Satan?

The only certain factor about human life is that it will end sooner or later in death. What then? That depends on how you live now. Isn't it about time you got God into your life? "How do you know what is going to happen tomorrow? For the length of your lives is as uncertain as the morning fog - now you see it; soon it is gone."

(B. G. Echols)

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