

PLANNING AHEAD

1/8/2023 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: Phil. 3:13-16.

B. Regarding the text:

1. This is the time of year when people look back and ahead.
2. The Romans named January for Janus (two faces looking in opposite directions)
3. Business people both review and plan ahead.

C. It is natural to look and plan ahead.

1. It is good to look ahead, if kept in perspective.
 - 1) Paul was ready to die (Philippians 1:21-23).
 - 2) Yet, still looked ahead if allowed to live (Philippians 2:23-24).
2. Our look ahead should have three qualities to it.

DISCUSSION: THE FAITHFUL SHOULD HAVE...

I. AN EXTENDED VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

A. Plan for eternity because life is uncertain.

1. Life is not guaranteed for tomorrow (James 4:13-14).
2. Life is pictured a brief by striking figures.
 - 1) A flower (James 1:10-11).
 - 2) A vapor (James 4:14).
 - 3) A shadow and grass (Psalm 102:11).
 - 4) A tale (Psalm 90:9-10).
3. The Rich Farmer had only planned for the present time (Luke 12:16-21).

B. Plan for eternity because Jesus is coming unannounced (2 Peter 3:10-14).

C. Plan for eternity because it alone is secure. (Matthew 6:19-20).

II. A CONFIDENT VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

A. Faithful Christian has no reason for anxiety about the future (Matthew 6:30-34).

1. Knows that death does no permanent harm (2 Corinthians 5:1-10).
2. Knows that good comes to him both in life and death. (Philippians 1:21).

B. Faithful Christian has every reason for hope about future (1 Peter 3:15).

1. He has the forgiveness of sins (Revelation 1:5-7; Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:7).
2. He has God's promises (Hebrews 6:18-20; 9:27; John 14:1-4).
3. He knows the end of his labor (1 Corinthians 15:58; Philippians 3:12-14; 2 Timothy 4:8).

III. A SUBMISSIVE VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

A. We will do some things if God wills (James 4:13-16)

1. Not a mere resignation.
2. But a real desire to have God's will done. (Matthew 26:42; Luke 22:42).

B. We will do some things because God wills (1 Peter 4:1-2).

1. God's will for our salvation from past sins.
2. God's will for living in this present world (Titus 2:11-12).
3. God's will for the church.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. How do you look ahead to next year?

1. With hope?
2. With consideration for God's will?

B. Why not begin by correcting past — obey gospel.