

PLAN AHEAD

2/4/2023 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. People in business 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 depart this life (Phil. 1:21-23).
 - 2) Yet, still looked ahead if allowed to live (Phil. 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. Tomorrow is not guaranteed (James 4:13-14).
2. Scripture describes life as a brief time.
 - 1) A flower (James 1:10-11).
 - 2) A vapor (James 4:14).
 - 3) A shadow and grass (Psalm 102:11)
3. The Rich farmer only planned for the present time (Luke 12:16-21 *** Vss. 19-20).

B. The Reason: Jesus is coming unannounced (2 Pet. 3:10-14).

C. Plan for the eternal home because it alone is secure (Matt. 6:19-21).

II. A CONFIDENT VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

A. The faithful should not worry about the future (Matt. 6:30-34).

1. The faithful know that death does no permanent harm (1 Cor. 15:55).
2. We know that good comes both in life and death. (Phil. 1:21 "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.")

B. The faithful have every reason to hope for future.

1. He has the forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:9).
2. He has God's promises.
 - 1) John 14:1-4.
 - 2) Heb. 6:18-19).
3. He knows that a reward awaits him.
 - 1) Phil. 3:12-14.
 - 2) 2 Tim. 4:8.

III. A SUBMISSIVE VIEW OF THE FUTURE.

A. Because there is an eternal future, we must submit to the will of God.

1. James 4:7.
2. Rom. 6:16-18.

B. Submission requires complete obedience.

1. John 2:5.
2. Rom 10:3-4.

IV. CONCLUSION:

A. How do you look ahead to the coming year?

1. Do we realize that eternity lies ahead?
2. Are we confident as we view the future?
3. Will we submit to every ordinance of God?

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