

NUMBERING OUR DAYS: Preparing for the Future

Introduction

- 1) If we let God teach us to “**number our days**” we will gain a heart of wisdom (Psa. 90:9-12)
- 2) We speak of our earthly life in three tenses: **Past – Present – Future**
- 3) A **FUTURE** lies ahead of each one of us, but we cannot yet see it (God can – Jn. 21:18-19)
 - a) The **uncertain** number of days ahead on earth and the **certain** eternity that all will inhabit
- 4) What principles and truths does the Bible teach about “numbering” our **future** days?

I) Our Future Activities on Earth are Uncertain

- A) ***We do not know what will happen “tomorrow” (Jas. 4:13-15)***
 - 1) “If the Lord wills” – make plans, but understand life’s brevity and future’s uncertainty
 - 2) We should not boast about our future activities (v. 16); need to be doing good **now!** (v. 17)
- B) ***Our futures can take unexpected turns (Lk. 12:16-20; 22:33-34)***
 - 1) Earthly life can be going along fine, then drastic changes can happen (Eccl. 9:11-12)
 - 2) Trials of life can chasten and strengthen us for a better future (Heb. 12:11; Jas. 1:2-4)

II) Our Only Certain Future is Death, Judgment, Resurrection, and Eternity

- A) ***Appointed for men to die (Heb. 9:27)***
 - 1) After this the resurrection (Jn. 5:28-29), and then the final judgment (Rev. 20:12; 2 Tim. 4:1)
 - 2) The eternal destinies of heaven or hell await all mankind (Matt. 25:46; Rev. 20:11-15)
- B) ***Those who deny a future resurrection/judgment will not prepare properly for their future***
 - 1) More likely to engage in sinful activities – “no consequences!” (1 Cor. 15:12, 32-34)
- C) ***Our future focus must be on the spiritual goal of a heavenly reward***
 - 1) This is the only future fully assured to the faithful (2 Tim. 1:12; 2:10; 4:6-8)
 - 2) Example of the patriarchs of old – “embraced” their eternal future (Heb. 11:13-14)

III) How Should We Live Today in Preparation for the Future?

- A) ***Do not worry about tomorrow (Matt. 6:34)***
 - 1) If we seek God’s kingdom and His righteousness first (today, v. 33), we will be prepared for whatever tomorrow may or may not bring (cf. Rom. 8:38)
- B) ***Exhort one another to righteousness in view of approaching days (Heb. 10:23-25)***
 - 1) “So much the more as you see the *day* approaching” – referring to the destruction of Jerusalem or the second coming of Jesus (cf. Rom. 13:11-12; Jas. 5:8)
 - 2) Need to be spiritually minded in preparing for a successful future (Jas. 4:15; Titus 2:13)
 - 3) Helps us watch and prepare for future attacks by our adversary, Satan (1 Pet. 5:8-9)
- C) ***Focus on the goal of spiritual victory in Christ***
 - 1) Do not run the race of life with uncertainty (1 Cor. 9:24-26)
 - 2) Move on from the past, reach forward to things ahead, press toward the goal (Phil. 3:13-14)
- D) ***Make plans and preparations for an eternal home with God***
 - 1) We are sojourners and pilgrims traveling toward a better home (Heb. 11:15-16; 1 Pet. 2:11)
 - 2) Make firm your calling and election to enter the eternal kingdom (2 Pet. 1:10-11)

Conclusion

God’s character and will is not affected by the passing of time (Heb. 13:8; 2 Pet. 3:8-9), but we must remain faithful: “Mark the blameless man, and observe the upright; for *the future of that man is peace*. But the transgressors shall be destroyed together; *the future of the wicked shall be cut off*” (Psa. 37:37-38).

The way you live today will affect your future here and determine your eternal future. Let us carefully number our days and live all of them to the fullest for God’s glory. If you do this, you will be ready for the **last day** of time and the judgment. Will you start today by obeying God’s plan of salvation and being faithful until the end of time?