

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

JAMES 4:14

Introduction

1. There's something about the waning days of a year that causes some of us to stop and think about the nature of our own lives...
2. We, through experiences, know tht our lives here are temporary, brief and uncertain...
3. It seems hard for us...to keep our balance in the face of this fact.
 - a. Some seem to want to throw thoughtfulness to the wind and live as if we (they) were going to live forever...
 - b. Others seem to despair by thinking that if we're going to die, our lives have no meaning...
4. So, the question is, how can I be realistic about the nature of my life, but still love life and make the best of my days.
5. There are definitely some things we can do to make the very best of our days...

Discussion

A. We Need To Accept The Fact That We Are On A Pilgrimage.

1. A pilgrimage is:
 - a. A journey made by a pilgrim (a wanderer, or sojourner.)
 - b. Any long journey (like the pilgrims who came to America in 1620), is a pilgrimage.
2. This world can never be home to any of us - we're all only passing through...
3. If I can remember that I'm a sojourner and a pilgrim, I can seek a better country...(Heb. 11:10)... he looked for.
 - a. Peter's writing to Christians, said: "Dearly beloved, I beseech (ask or implore) you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lust... which war against the soul."...(1 Peter 2:11).
 - b. And again in Hebrews 11:13-16...

B. We Need To Have A Solid Foundation

1. Solid foundation to build on.
 - a. I Corinthians 3:10 "According to the grace of God..."
 - b. I Corinthians 3:11 "For other foundations..."
 - c. Ephesians 2:20 "And are built upon the..."
 - d. Isaiah wrote..."Therefore thus saith the Lord God, Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation: he that believeth shall not make haste or be dismayed (Isaiah 26:16)
2. A foundation to live upon.
 - a. One that we can depend on...
 - b. One that will take us through, not only good times, but also hard times...
3. A foundation that has goals worthy to live for / forgiveness, peace of mind, happiness.

4. We all need the everlasting arms beneath us and the eternal God for our refuge. (Deut. 33:27) “The eternal God is they refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms...”

C. We Need To Be Living For Things That Will Always Count...

1. Like everyone, we want the work of our hands to matter. (Psalms 90:17) “And let the beauty of the Lord our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it.” (Rev. 14:13) “And I heard...”
2. So, let us then involve ourselves in the good works that are “a good foundation against the time to come.” (1 Tim. 6:17-19)

D. We Need To Live By Good Principles.

1. We need to live by principles that make life work so we can be ready today... not tomorrow; next week, next year...
2. If we do what we should today, we will be prepared for whatever tomorrow brings. (Matt. 6:34) “Take...no thought for the morrow: the morrows shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.” And, “Blessed is that servant, whom his Lord when he cometh shall find so doing.” (Luke 12:43)

Conclusion: Where do we get the strength we need...

1. God’s “...precious and exceeding great promises...” Offer us the strength to escape the corruption that is in the world. (2 Peter 1:4) And the comfort to endure the worlds sorrows...
2. A Christian’s view of life / make the fleeting time we have here far, far better.
3. Knowing that life is temporary, brief and uncertain - surely, surely everyone should want to be ready either at death and or when th Lord Jesus shall come... (Prov. 27:1)