

JESUS CHRIST SAME YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND FOREVER.

Heb. 13:8

1. WE LIVE IN THREE REALMS OF TIME--YESTERDAY, TODAY, AND TOMORROW.
 1. We can talk about what God did yesterday, at the exclusion of what He is doing today, and what He wants to do tomorrow.
 2. We can talk about what He is going to do--always putting off into the future, or diverting our attention from today.
 3. You can consider only today, which has merit, but fail to realize the importance of yesterday and not seeing the significance of the future.

2. LET'S CONSIDER YESTERDAY.
 1. Yesterday are but memories--memories of good; memories of bad.
 2. Yesterday represents history, and there is a value of history.
 1. To avoid mistakes of the past.
 2. To inspire toward the future.
 3. Tradition built upon the past.
 1. The value of tradition - Gives sense of stability; connection with the past.
 2. The detriment of tradition
 1. If limit or hinder us; blind us; keep us from expanding.
 2. Traditions can make of none effect the Word of God.
 4. How to deal with the negatives of the past.
 1. Settle unsettled issues; forgive if necessary; leave it behind.
 2. Pray for healing of memories.
 5. How to relate to the positive.
 1. Don't even dwell on the positive things of the past if hinders from fulfilling present and future; don't dwell on what used to be--the

good ole days; wish it was like that today.

2. Allow the positive things of past to be inspirer and motivator. If He did it then, He can do it again!

3. TODAY.

1. The value of today.
 1. Today is the day of salvation.
 2. Take no thought for tomorrow. Sufficient unto the day is the evil.
 3. Avoiding procrastination--don't put off till tomorrow what we can and should do today.
 4. Recognizing the God of the now.
2. Poem
3. Avoiding the humanism trap.
 1. Living only for today.
 2. Humanism says that Christianity blinds people for today by promising them a better tomorrow. This they say is a delusionment; there is nothing after this life. Therefore live today as if there were no tomorrow. You only go around once, so do it with gusto. Eat, drink, and be merry, because tomorrow may be to late. You have to get it while you can.

4. TOMORROW.

1. Considering tomorrow requires planning and dreaming and visualizing.
 1. Require goals.
 2. *"Write the vision, and make it plain upon tables, that he may run that readeth it. For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie; though it tarry, wait for it, because it will surely come, it will not tarry."* (Hab. 2:2-3).
2. Considering tomorrow requires hope.
 1. Hope that is not seen is not hope.

2. There is hope for tomorrow!
 3. Hope is not something you presently see or possess. Hope is futuristic. Hope is a vision of something not yet manifested. Hope is not seen; for if we see it, why do we yet hope for it? Now faith is the substance--substance of things hoped, dreamed, or envisioned.
 4. The hope that "this too shall pass..."
 1. Weeping endures for the night, but joy comes in the morning.
We believe that bad things will not always be.
 2. Without hope, you can not survive. We all hope for better days and better circumstances; but just hoping it is not enough. Having a vision is not enough, though we need a vision. There must be something to power the vision, and that is the force of faith.
 3. Considering that which is yet before us requires faith.
5. WE MUST BEGIN TO REFOCUS ON ETERNITY.
1. The essence of our being is more than today.
 2. If the only hope we have in Christ is in this life, we would be of all men most miserable.
 1. There is a hope of tomorrow.
 2. There is a hope of eternity with the Lord.
 3. There is a hope of a better place.
 4. There is a heaven; and there is a hell.
 3. The reason we emphasize today is because that is when we need the help of the Lord; we need the will of God to be done in earth as it is in heaven.
 1. We need a taste of heaven here--a little heaven to go to heaven with.
 2. All the glory and bliss we experience in this realm of existence is just a foretaste; the earnest of our inheritance.
 3. There is nothing any more glorious or satisfying than a glorious

manifestation of the presence of the Lord through the power of the Holy Spirit, but this is only the earnest.

6. WHERE IS OUR FOCUS?

1. Is it still on yesterday? Is it on tomorrow? or just today?
2. If only for today, we only live for the flesh--how we can appease and satisfy the flesh.
3. If it is only on yesterday, we are slaves to the past and are of no particular value for today.
4. If it is only on tomorrow, we can not appreciate the things God has provided for us today; we will miss a major essence of our being here.
 1. We have been put here for a mission--to reveal the glory of God.
 2. To prepare ourselves for all eternity.
5. We need to learn to recognize and give allegiance to the God who never changes--the same yesterday, today, and forever.

7. CONCLUSION.

1. Poem - For yesterday is a dream, And tomorrow is only a vision; But today, well lived Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness, And every tomorrow a vision of hope. Look well, therefore, to this day! Taking care of business today takes care of the past and the future. Don't have to worry about what kind of legacy we leave behind. Certainly don't have to worry about the future.
2. Because He lives, I can face tomorrow.
Because He lives, all fear is gone.
Because I know He holds the future.
And life is worth the living just because He lives.