

SOME THINGS TO REMEMBER

Philippians 3:12-13

Introduction: Life goes by one day at a time and some people want to hurry it along and some people want it to just stand still, while others want to go back and relive some of their life that they've already lived. God has given life to us as a "process" rather than "zip" it's here and then it's done. Who would want to experience all that life has in just a single moment or day.

Life is like farming in that seed is planted and then comes growth and ultimately the harvest, but there is time in between, nothing is all at once in farming, neither is it in life.

God spaces things out for us in that we just couldn't handle life if it came to us all at once. Let us pause for a time now and be reminded of some things that can help us go through our days left in an expectant manner.

I. REMEMBER, AS CHRISTIANS, WE ARE A PILGRIM PEOPLE

1. This earth is no longer our real home. We are members of God's kingdom and His place for us is in Heaven.
 - Too often, however, we forget and live as if this earth/world is still our homeland and we become too involved in the affairs here. This is not right for us anymore.
 - Our destination is fixed, sure, permanent, Heaven, but we are not there yet and we need to remind ourselves of that every day.
2. Being non-residents can give life a different meaning. We don't need to get all involved in local "politics," etc., We can enjoy the pluses and skip the negatives.
3. We are not all that we are going to be, no where near, yet. God has started a wonderful thing in us but we are FAR from being what God has planned for us. We are more like living in tents than in established, permanent buildings.
4. Being "pilgrims" allows us to "taste" all the wonderful things God has for us during the lifetime we have left.
5. *Philippians 3:12-13*

II. WE ARE TO BE A HOPEFUL PEOPLE

1. *"...I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me..."* Being a pilgrim frees the Christian to enjoy his/her lifetime and what God may bring but, we must also remember that the other side of joy is pain.
2. Christians are not going to be immune to trouble and pain, however we do have a source of healing and comfort that no one else has and that source is Jesus Christ.
 - Jesus is our counselor, our healer, our friend, our refuge.
 - Jesus has saved us from sin and hell, but we will still experience pain, sadness, troubles that come during our lifetime.

- Jesus is our resource in trouble, not our rescue, but our RESOURCE.

3. How do we make it through the unpleasanties that will come during our lifetime? We can do all things through Jesus Christ. He will strengthen us. He is our refuge. He is our counselor, He is our friend.
4. Jesus and our faith in Him makes it possible to face whatever we may face during our lifetime, even when it seems like it is impossible.

III. WE ARE A VIGILANT PEOPLE

1. Sadly, we too often give more LIP service than heart service to the fact that Jesus is really coming soon. Yet we have more reason to believe that Jesus will come while we are alive than any other generation that has ever lived. Take a look at what's going on around the world today.
2. Christmas is the time of the year when we celebrate the first coming of our Lord Jesus and we have no doubts about that. We have no doubts about salvation coming to us from the Easter events. So, why then do we tend to forget that the time is at hand for the Second Coming of our Lord? That our time is short and we will one by one pass away from this earth and be ushered into eternity to stand before our Lord?
3. God tells us, His Children, to be vigilant, be sober, be watchful, for we don't know when the Lord will return, but one thing is certain - 50 years from today, most of us right here in this place will have already gone on to be with the Lord.

CONCLUSION:

1. Christians, remember! Our home is not here anymore. We are but transients, we are passing through, pilgrims.
 - Let us not be satisfied with what this world offers but remember that our home has not been made with human hands and this place pales in the brightness of our real, permanent home in heaven.
2. We have a reason for victory and hope that nobody else has. We have a refuge, a counselor, a healer, a friend who will always be at our side when things are difficult.
3. We also need to remember that sometimes during the rest of our life here, some of us will be called on home. Who will it be? Regardless of whom it will be ALL of us need to be watchful, it could be you, it could be me, it could be ALL OF US....