

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Ephesians 4:28-32**.
- B. In our homes, pocketbooks, etc., we have 365 day calendars. We plan and organize our time according the time available as shown on a calendar.
- C. We may have a lot of things to do on our calendars but of all the days the apostle Paul only had a two day calendar. Two days were all that was important for him.
- D. Out of 365 days a year the only two days that really matter are Paul's two days, today and the day (the day of judgment).
- E. As we plan out lives we must be concerned about and plan for:
 - 1. Today.
 - 2. Things that need to be done daily.
 - 3. The day to come.

I. WHAT ABOUT TODAY?

- A. Paul had a great deal to say about today.
- B. If he wrote Hebrews, he said that JC is the same, yesterday, today, and forever. No matter what day you "call on the lord" He is the same, unchangeable, and perfect (Heb. 13:8).
- C. But the last days are filled with wickedness and sinful men. We must be careful how we walk (2Tim. 3:1; Eph. 5:16).
(2Tim 3:1) But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.
(Eph 5:16) ...making the most of your time, because the days are evil.
- D. Part of our living each day to its fullest for God involves being encouraged by others, and giving encouragement. Xians usually see too little of one another and cannot encourage like the Scriptures teach (Heb. 3:12-13; 10:24-25).
(Heb 3:12-13) Take care, brethren, lest there should be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart, in falling away from the living God. [13] But encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called "Today," lest any one of you be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.
(Heb 10:24-25) ...and let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds, **25** not forsaking our own assembling together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another; and all the more, as you see the day drawing near.
- E. Putting off to tomorrow what can be done today is a way of hardening one's heart. If we know something to do that is right, do it today (Heb. 4:7).
He again fixes a certain day, "Today," saying through David after so long a time just as has been said before, "TODAY IF YOU HEAR HIS VOICE, DO NOT HARDEN YOUR HEARTS."

II. WHAT ABOUT DAILY THINGS?

- A. The Bible clearly tells us that Xianity is a daily religion. Even though our worship services are once a week (the Lord's Supper, giving) there are things which we are to do daily.
- B. We are to give thanks (which means prayer) every day (Mt. 6:11).
'Give us this day our daily bread.'
- C. We are to deny self, endure persecution, and imitate Jesus everyday (Lk. 9:23).
And He was saying to them all, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me."
- D. We are to study the Bible daily after the example of the Bereans (Ac. 17:11).
Now these were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily, to see whether these things were so.
- E. The NT church mentioned in Acts 2 continued daily in the fellowship and the breaking of bread (Ac. 2:46).
And day by day continuing with one mind in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they were taking their meals together with gladness and sincerity of heart,

- F. If one has trouble in coming to weekly worship services it could be that one's daily life is not what it should be.

III. WHAT ABOUT THE DAY?

- A. Emphasis should be placed on the article "the" which points out that "the day" means the Day of Judgment. Paul spoke of it often.
- B. Many things will happen on that day. Too many to mention here, but remember, what we do today and on a daily basis will determine what happens on that day.
- C. The day of the Lord will come like a thief. Like in the days of Noah, there will be no warning other than the preaching heard (1Th. 5:1-2).
Now as to the times and the epochs, brethren, you have no need of anything to be written to you. 2 For you yourselves know full well that the day of the Lord will come just like a thief in the night.
- D. Jesus spoke of this day and said that no man knows when it will come (Mt. 24:36).
"But of that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father alone."
- E. But we should be ready. Look at Paul's words; the day of the Lord should not come as a total surprise (1Th. 5:4).
But you, brethren, are not in darkness, that the day should overtake you like a thief;...
- F. The admonition of Heb. 10:24-25 is not primarily to tell people to attend the worship services (although this truth is taught) but to encourage each one in light of the judgment day that is coming.
- G. The day of the Lord will be one of wrath, judgment, and destruction. God through X will judge the world in righteousness (Rom. 2:5, 18).
But because of your stubbornness and unrepentant heart you are storing up wrath for yourself in the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God,... 18 and know His will, and approve the things that are essential, being instructed out of the Law,...
- H. The good news however, that is on Paul's two-day calendar is that for the faithful, the day is a day of redemption (Eph. 4:30).
And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Knowing what to do with each day is a great blessing. Some of the most unhappy people are those who do not know what to do with their time or their lives.
- B. By knowing what the Bible says about today, and what to do daily, we can prepare for the day.
- C. The two most important days of the calendar-are today and the day.
- D. Paul said that today is the acceptable time, today is the day of salvation (2Cor. 6:2).
...for He says, "AT THE ACCEPTABLE TIME I LISTENED TO YOU, AND ON THE DAY OF SALVATION I HELPED YOU"; behold, now is "THE ACCEPTABLE TIME," behold, now is "THE DAY OF SALVATION"--
- E. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.