

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Luke 12:29-32.**
- B. In English, verbs have three tenses; past, present, and future. I don't plan to conjugate any verbs today, but I do advocate *living in the future tense*.
- C. We talk of the *good old days*, but if we would be honest they had their problems and struggles too. In fact, the present may be better than the good old days in many ways.
- D. But *the present* always has its uncertainties and trials. We don't always know what decisions to make each day and this can make living in the present difficult.
- E. Therefore, I want to live in *the future tense*. I want to live in such a way as to:
 - 1. Forget about the past w/its memories and transgressions.
 - 2. Struggle w/today and all of its persistent problems.
 - 3. Live for tomorrow, looking forward to its blessings.

I. SEEK GOD, WHILE HE MAY BE FOUND.

- A. Heaven and earth will pass away. Your soul is worth more than the universe. God is *everlasting* but His *patience* is not.
- B. We must seek after God and the things of God while we have time and interest to do so. We must find God while He may be found; we may reach a point in our lives that we can no longer come to Him (2Pet. 3:9; Mt. 24:35; Rom. 1:24, 26, 28).
- C. God warned Israel through the prophets, but they would not repent...
 - ...so God gave up and the Assyrians beat them into oblivion.
 - God warned Judah through the prophets, but they would not repent;
 - ...so God gave up and the Babylonians took them into captivity.
 - God gave evidence of His existence, but the Gentiles would not believe;
 - ...so God gave up and allowed them to completely degrade themselves in sin.
- D. These people would not come to God, they did not find Him and it is too late. Seek God while He may be found (Isa. 55:6), turn from your evil while you still can (Isa. 55:7).
- E. "Remember your creator in the days of your youth..." (Eccl. 12:1).
- F. I want to live in the future tense (*the eternal heavens*) therefore I want to seek after God now.

II. SEEK THE KINGDOM.

- A. When you're living in the future tense, you seek after things. You look forward to things you would like to have. However, this seeking must be done correctly.
- B. Jesus tells us what not to seek (things to eat and drink) and what not to do (worry). But to "seek for His kingdom" and all things will be given to you (Lk. 12:29-31).
- C. To rid myself of the physical and material concerns of today, I need to live in the future tense! Jesus tells me not to worry, and seeking the kingdom (spiritual blessings) is how I do that.
- D. Some people never get anywhere in life because they don't know where their going. If they **dwell** on the past, **fret** over the present, **they have no future!**
- E. I want the blessings of God that come from being in His kingdom; therefore I'm living in the future tense!

III. SEEK TREASURES IN HEAVEN.

- A. Be careful, *you will become like that which you love*. When you truly love someone or something you will selflessly give everything up to have it. That's what love is, a selfless giving of oneself to someone or something else.
- B. Paul says that our treasures, aspirations, and life's purpose must be set on things above (Col. 3:1-4).

- C. You can only think and do one thing at a time. You may do some things so quickly that it appears you are doing two things at once, but in reality you are not.
- D. Spiritually speaking you cannot live for self and for God at the same time. So quit *torturing yourself* and live in the future tense by *seeking the things that are above*!
- E. If you are still alive to the world you are living in the present tense, but if you have died and are setting your minds on things above you living in the future tense. That's where I want to live!

IV. **SEEK TO SERVE OTHERS.**

- A. Get dressed and get ready! Jesus is coming! To live in the future tense is to expect His return and be ready for it.
- B. Jesus tells the story of the master who goes away but will return. What will He find when He returns? People who are ready or not ready? See Lk. 12:35-40.
- C. One of the most humbling questions found in the NT is in Lk. 18:8 where Jesus says, "When the Son of Man returns will He find faith on the earth?" He may find a lot of other things (materialism, covetousness, sin, and selfishness) but will He find faith?
- D. Those that live in the future tense are busy serving others so that when the Master returns He will find them ready to go.
- E. Because Jesus is coming at an hour I do not expect (Lk. 12:40), I want to live in the future tense to be ready for that coming.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Living in the future tense means:
 - 1. Seeking God while He may be found to enjoy future, eternal blessings.
 - 2. Seeking the kingdom of God and things spiritual.
 - 3. Seeking treasures in heaven by loving the right things.
 - 4. Seeking to serve others to be dressed and ready for X.
- B. What are you seeking this day? What tense are you living in? The only tense worth living in is the future tense. Do so by responding to Jesus and seeking the things talked about today.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.