

Life is fragile and very short.

We assume that we have tomorrow and plan as if there were no question about it. That may be a reasonable way of looking at it, but humility would remind us that we really don't know what tomorrow holds – only God knows that.

It would be well to live today as if there is no tomorrow and that soon we will leave this life with whatever unfinished business we have, left unfinished. Much of what constitutes life, can be left unfinished. It really won't matter much if we don't get the lawn mowed or the car washed or the laundry done. When death knocks at the door, everyone expects that some things will be left undone, so there is no loss there.

Other things are not so easily reconciled.

The really important things which must be done are all related to relationships. Is our relationship with God up to date? Have we left anything left unsaid to our loved ones and family? Are there broken relationships which should be mended? Are there prayers left unsaid or important thoughts left unshared? Someone has said, "The best things in life are free." True, but in a deeper sense, "The best things in life are relationships. The best things in life are **not things** but people."

In regard to these thoughts it is good to remember that life is fragile and very short.

Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. (Jas 4:13-17)

We don't usually see ourselves as a short-lived vapor that soon vanishes away, but that is how God describes us. We are often thinking and planning all kinds of activities, but the one thing that we really need is to discover God's plans concerning us. Years ago I remember that the old folks regularly said, "Tomorrow we will do such-n-so, Lord willin'." [or "...the good Lord willin'.']

We tend to be too sophisticated for that now. We make the plan and the Lord had better get on board.

Instead, [WE] ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. The words are not as important as the determination to be about the Lord's business and living in harmony with His plans. Are we living our lives in determined submission to His plans? To do otherwise is "arrogant" and "boastful" according to HIM.

Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin. If we have learned that the "***right thing to do***" is to seek and learn the will of the Lord concerning the activities of the day, then it is sin if we do not do it. [At least that is what the Bible says.]

It would be wonderful if we ALWAYS knew just what the Lord wanted from us. We don't, at least I don't, but if the heart's desire is to know and please the Lord, that very intention and desire is pleasing to Him and in time we will know more and more about what He is planning concerning us. Obviously, it is sin to disobey a clear directive from the Lord. It is also sin to run our lives like the heathen do with no regard for the Living God or His eternal plans for us.

The "***right thing to do***" is to submit our wills to the living God and make our plans with hearts intent on His direction and approval. That is the heart of humility and the beginning of wisdom.

We should try to do better starting tomorrow..... errr.....how about today.....or even now?

Love and blessings,

George