

THIS IS THE DAY
Matthew 6:34, Psalms 118:24
By Raymond White

Some people live in the past. Guilt can do that to people — chain them to the past and deprive them of present joys. Of course guilt can be a good thing if it leads to repentance and forgiveness, which then frees us to enjoy today. But perpetual guilt without escape cheats us out of today's happiness. It is Christ's forgiveness that breaks that chain.

Some people live in the future. Greed keeps some people so focused to tomorrow's wealth that they are unable to enjoy today. Fear also can keep one's attention on the future. A person who lives only in the future loses that future one day at a time until his entire life has vanished and he has enjoyed none of it. You can't enjoy tomorrow; it isn't here yet.

Someone said that some Christians have their heads so much in heaven that they're no earthly good. It's one thing to treasure heaven, and quite another to worry so much about it that we can't enjoy today. Jesus secured the future for us, not to trap our minds in it but to free us from fear so that we can live the abundant life today.

***Matthew 6:11** Give us this day our daily bread...*

God grants life one day at a time. Trust me: For everyone on the planet, it is still today. Don't lose its joys by clinging so desperately to the past or so greedily to the future.

***Matthew 6:34** Take ye therefore no thought for the morrow; for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof.*

What that means is simply don't worry so much about tomorrow's problems, you have enough problems today to worry about.

Now let's not go overboard with this. I don't mean, and I sure that the Lord didn't mean, that we should live only for today's pleasures and not plan, save, study, repent, and in every way prepare for the future. The point is balance: don't let the future suck the life out of today, but as well don't let your today destroy your hopes and dreams for tomorrow. Today is wonderful enough and powerful enough to do double duty: to enjoy and to prepare for tomorrow.

Years ago a friend Steve told me that he wanted to be a school teacher. I asked, well, why don't you do that? He said he didn't want to spend two more years in college. I said, if you don't, the two years will go by anyway, won't it? Then where will you be? He said, good point. Years later I ran into Steve again. He said, "I'm glad I took your advice. I finished college and now I'm a music teacher at Burbank High. I direct the marching band and I'm having the time of my life."

My point is that each day of the two years was itself worth living. Yes, each day was given to a future goal, but he had his wife, kids, church, job and of course school. And each day of all that was good, *and* he reached a goal. He did not *sacrifice* any today's, he lived all of them.

Maybe today will be a good day for you, or maybe it will be a bad day. But it's the only day you have so enjoy it and make it count. Today is God's gift to you. Use it well.

***Psalms 118:24** This is the day that the Lord hath made; we will rejoice and be glad in it.*

Carpe Diem! (Seize the day)