

A New Decade

ILLUSTRATION: Article from USA Today – “The 2000s”

We are about to enter another year – and another decade!

We tend to overestimate what we can accomplish in a year, but underestimate what we can accomplish in a decade! (i.e. Missions)

Jeremiah 8:20 The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.

The Jews in Jeremiah’s time believed that their time of “reaping” (rescue) was past because they hadn’t seen God do what they wanted him to do. The false prophets were having a heyday saying that the trouble was temporary – but Jeremiah was trusting God even if it wasn’t!

Lamentations 3:21-26 This I recall to my mind, therefore have I hope. It is of the Lord’S mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness. The Lord is my portion, saith my soul; therefore will I hope in him. The Lord is good unto them that wait for him, to the soul that seeketh him. It is good that a man should both hope and quietly wait for the salvation of the Lord.

The disciples found Jesus waiting at a well in Samaria – and He was sustained not by food, but by doing the will of God!

John 4:31-35 In the mean while his disciples prayed him, saying, Master, eat. But he said unto them, I have meat to eat that ye know not of. Therefore said the disciples one to another, Hath any man brought him ought to eat? Jesus saith unto them, My meat is to do the will of him that sent me, and to finish his work. Say not ye, There are yet four months, and then cometh harvest? behold, I say unto you, Lift up your eyes, and look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest.

Don’t say “we’ve missed our time of harvest” and don’t say “our time of harvest is way off in the distance” – realize that God is working NOW.

Luke 16:1-8 And he said also unto his disciples, There was a certain rich man, which had a steward; and the same was accused unto him that he had wasted his goods. And he called him, and said unto him, How is it that I hear this of thee? give an account of thy stewardship; for thou mayest be no longer steward. Then the steward said within himself, What shall I do? for my lord taketh away from me the stewardship: I cannot dig; to beg I am ashamed. I am resolved what to do, that, when I am put out of the stewardship, they may receive me into their houses.

So he called every one of his lord's debtors unto him, and said unto the first, How much owest thou unto my lord? And he said, An hundred measures of oil. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and sit down quickly, and write fifty. Then said he to another, And how much owest thou? And he said, An hundred measures of wheat. And he said unto him, Take thy bill, and write fourscore. And the lord commended the unjust steward, because he had done wisely: for the children of this world are in their generation wiser than the children of light.

The unjust steward knew he had LIMITED TIME and LIMITED OPPORTUNITY – so he took advantage of NOW! That is wise!

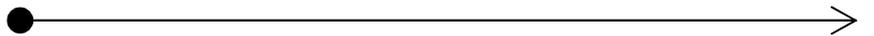
JESUS ALWAYS HAD TWO KINGDOMS IN MIND. He spoke of only two options that demand only one choice, and He taught there was a “default choice” if no choice was made.

Luke 16:13 No servant can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon.

Matthew 6:19-21 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Jesus’ primary argument against amassing material things isn’t that it is morally wrong, but simply that it is a poor investment. Material things just won’t stand the test of time! He’s saying, “Make a smart investment!”

YOUR HEART FOLLOWS YOUR TREASURE! Not just in eternity, but right now. You can direct your heart by directing your treasure!



Our life is in two phases, a dot and a line. Our present life on earth is the dot. It begins, it ends, and it is brief. However, from the dot a line extends that goes on forever. That line is ETERNITY. The short-sighted person lives for the dot, but the person with perspective lives for the line.

You can’t control what DID or DIDN’T happen in the past, and you can’t control what MIGHT or MIGHT NOT happen in the future ... but you can fully control what you do with TODAY.

It’s too late to change what happened in the last decade, but if the Lord tarries His coming for another ten years, where do you want to be spiritually as we begin 2020?