



bits from bob....

Future

January 25, 2021

Today is fleeting. Nonetheless, it is all we have, all we need, all we can manage. A pretty good sermon based on Matt. 6:33. The past is gone; tomorrow is only a promise. Time is interesting. The future is now! Time that was future when you began reading this sentence is in the past by the time you finish.

The hopes and dreams of the future depend on how we spend today. You determine your future every day, every minute. What are your fondest hopes and dreams for the future? Figure that out and devote the entirety of your life to what matters most. Paul in Phil. 3 – forgetting, pressing on.

For the Christian, the future belongs to God. He holds tomorrow. We want his will to be done; we want to do his will. What he has in store for our future will be exciting and interesting. I rejoice when I see him use frail, human instruments to accomplish his purposes.

Today is rare. This little piece is different, this is not how I prepare lessons. Today is an anomaly. I am smashing together six biblical principles in lesson built on the letters of the word F-U-T-U-R-E. Memorable, is a mnemonic device.

FIND God. Make absolutely sure you have found God. Make certain you know him and love him. Don't let go of God. Maintain that relationship at all costs.

Be USEFUL. Whatever talents God has given you, whatever abilities, whatever service, whatever ministry--make the very best use of your life. Seize the opportunity. Make your life count. When every Christian is used by God, the future is boundless.

TRUST God. Here many tend to stumble. With the first difficulty, we let go. The enemy is real, evil is rampant. Only God can see us through temptation, and trial, and traumatic events.

Seek UNDERSTANDING. Two levels. (#1) Understand God's will. God's will is understandable, revealing the future of mankind, the future of Satan, the future of the church. Understanding makes clear whose side we want to be on. Understanding God's Word helps us decide what to do, where to go. (#2) Understand others.

Build RELATIONSHIPS. Relationship with God. Here is a key to spiritual growth, maturity. Relationships with others. Another "R" comes to mind – Reach out to others. You are here for a purpose. You live in a world where multitudes are not aware of how much they are loved. Many are perishing. God never intended us to live in isolation. He desires that we reproduce, that we touch others' lives, that we bring more and more to his Son. How sad to behold many who are convinced that Jesus is the answer for which people are searching, but who will not share with others the answer.

Live EXPECTANTLY. Point your entire life toward eternity. The ultimate future for the believer is heaven. This is why God sent Jesus, why Christ left glory. This is the reason for the crucifixion. God has provided us with a wonderful future; those without Christ really have no future. Look into the future far enough to expect the farthest future. Know the future for a Christian is exciting.

I cannot see clearly the future God has in mind, but I know it is exciting! Plan to be part of God's plans for the future!