Coronavirus Social Distancing Daily Devotion #38

The Secret to Life

**James 4:14 (NASB) “***You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”*

Some of you will remember a song written by singer songwriter James Taylor call Secret O’Life written in 1977 when he was having a terrible struggle with drug abuse and growing fame. The song begins by saying, *“The secret of life is enjoying the passage of time”.* I am not trying to promote James Taylor, but there is more truth to this line in the song than what may be expected from someone who, as far as I know, does not have a relationship with Jesus as Savior and Lord.

If you pay attention to the Scriptures, you will see that God has plans for His people to bless them and bring them into His glorious Kingdom. (Jeremiah 29:11) While that was written to Israel, non-Hebrews will enjoy that same end if they put their faith and hope in Christ. (Romans 10:13)

But the struggles of this life often crowd out the truth of what waits for God’s people. We get lost in our lives and the way we want things to be. We spend most of our time planning and preparing for the joys and blessings of this world rather than remembering our time on earth is very short. God makes it noticeably clear as He has James, not Taylor, write our verse for today.

To think of life as a vapor immediately takes us to that mental picture or even physical picture of water boiling on a stove and the steam rising. We often think of our lives like the water in the pot, boiling and churning as a representation of how we feel in this life. But the Lord says we are not like the boiling water, but instead the vapor or steam. And as you know, it is seen only for a short time then dissipates.

The Lord’s point is not to discourage His people with this statement but to awaken us to some things:

1. Whatever we plan to do for the Lord we should do it now. Because we don’t know the length of our days on earth, so what is to be done must be done swiftly or time will elapse very quickly. (Colossians 4:15)
2. The positive thrust to this message - because of sin, we have been corrupted and broken beyond our understanding. Therefore, the Lord will not leave us here forever, but He will take us to be with Him and restore us to what we were originally meant to be before sin corrupted us. (1 Corinthians 15)

In other words, the joy of a short life is in the knowledge that we are meant to be God’s people and to be with Him in His glory. (Revelation 22:14)

What must be the focus of our days on this earth is not what we have not and cannot achieve. But the focus of our our days on this earth must be to live in the awareness that one day we will be with our Lord. Because we have been rescued from certain damnation, (Colossians 1:15) we should focus our energy on the joy of knowing all in this life is temporary.

As you find yourself constrained in many ways during this pandemic. Can I encourage you to enjoy the time God has given you? Perhaps today is the day when God wants to change your attitude and outlook on your life. Maybe most of your life has been spent dreading your days and feeling the frustration of how quickly time passes. Maybe you have lived your life feeling the pressure to be someone the world sees as important and wants to applaud? Maybe you have wondered what is your purpose on this planet? Maybe life has been somewhat aimless and seemingly futile? Whatever your thoughts have been, God wants to help you focus on the positive. To enjoy the life He has given you. To enjoy the ride. To enjoy the passage of time.