

### MAKING GOD LAUGH

October 28, 2012

The late John Chancellor, long time anchor of the NBC News, said, “If you want to make God laugh, tell Him what your plans are.” The Word of God teaches that one should plan **for** tomorrow but not plan **on** tomorrow. It was the wise man that said, “Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1).

In the world today, we see many people that live as if they will never die. However, we don’t know what tomorrow will bring, nor do we have any guarantees of it even coming at all. James put it this way, “Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what *shall be* on the morrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye *ought* to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that” (Js. 4:13-15).

One of the great examples in the Bible of one living as if he would never die, is the account of the rich fool. He planned on building bigger and better barns to hold all that he had amassed up to that point in his life, as well as, all that he would accumulate in the future (Lk. 12:16-21). However, the Lord rebuked him for his arrogance and called on him to give account for his actions. The sad part is that the rich fool came to realize his mistake only after it was too late. One would think that as the rich fool looked back over his life, it likely seemed to him like a vapor of mist, here for a while but gone just as quickly as it came. He doubtlessly wished that he had made better plans for eternity.

God expects His creation to plan for tomorrow, by building bigger barns, if necessary, and making bigger plans, but He commands us to plan for eternity first. When we stand before God in eternity, the things we intended to do in this life that excluded Him will have lost all their importance to us. When the rich man lifted up his eyes “being in torments” (Lk. 16:23), all the things he held as important in this life no longer seemed that way. He began to think about the spiritual things, but it was too late for that for the time of preparation was over; all that was left was the judgment.

We may feel as if we will never die, especially when we are younger, but we must remember that life is like a vapor and comes to an end much sooner than we realize. The Hebrews writer spoke of the one thing that all people have in common, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). It is to this end that we need to make our plans and to be prepared for that time to come!

The only way that we can truly be prepared for that day is to be obedient to the Gospel plan of salvation. Cultivating faith in our hearts through a study of the word of God (Rom. 10:17; Heb. 11:6) is the first step in obedience. Repenting of past sins and turning our lives over to Him for His use (Acts 17:30) is the next step on our way to salvation. Confessing that Christ is the Son of God (Acts 8:37) and the means through which we are saved (Jn. 14:6) brings us to the point of salvation. Finally, immersion in water for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38; 22:16) places us in the church (Acts 2:47), which is the body of Christ (Col. 1:18). Then, we must always live faithfully for God as we continue our walk in this life (2 Tim. 4:6-8).

We never want to leave God out of the plans we make in this life because if we do, He will leave us out of His plans for the next! Plan to obey the gospel today because Paul said, "...behold, now *is* the accepted time; behold, now *is* the day of salvation" (2 Cor. 6:2).