

Live every day for the Lord

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Every day, somewhere in the world, someone dies unexpectedly. In this morning's news report, I read of a Brazilian soccer referee who killed a player who attacked him, only to have people who mobbed the field stone him to death. Neither expected to die that day as they headed to the match, I feel quite sure.

So much of life seems routine, however. One day predictably follows the next and we each receive more time to carry out our desires. Comfortable with a longer lease on life, we can begin to presume upon it.

God gives us perspective on how to balance the gift of days: "Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away," (James 4:14).

First, we must realize that "The plans of the heart belong to man, But the answer of the tongue is from the Lord," (Proverbs 16:1). God allows man to freely plan for even the long-term future, but reserves the right to overrule them. Those whom He called a "vapor" had done that, but got too far ahead of themselves. They had drawn plans to go to a city, spend a year, and make handsome profit. Maybe, maybe not.

Second, the attitude in our hearts concerning plans must reflect submission to Jesus Christ. Some said in their hearts that nothing would stop them from growing their bank accounts; "Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that,'" (James 4:15).

Not knowing the date of our last day, "So teach us to number our days, That we may present to You a heart of wisdom, (Psalm 90:12) should come from our hearts as a prayer to the Lord.

Often we think of feeble excuses as valid reasons for not doing what we know what the Lord wants us to do. Let the idea that "today could be my last day" help you prioritize your activities. Whether aged nine or 90, none of us knows how many days we have left.