

Jan 22, 1965

Number 1465

. . . greetings to the saints and all my friends within the sound of my voice. It is certainly a great privilege to come to you at this time and it is one which I have looked forward and planned with great anticipation for a number of weeks. We are thankful for this opportunity.

I have a scripture which I would like for you to notice in James the 4th chapter and the 14th verse.

"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."

Now along with this scripture, I would like for you to notice several things. First, that life is very short, that it will not be long until all of us will have spent the days allotted to us in this world. This is now the month of January, and the beginning of the new year 1965. I am sure many have made new year's resolutions and plans for this year. It is uncertain whether or not you shall be able to live to carry out those plans and resolutions. No doubt many listening to the sound of my voice at this moment, some in their homes and others in their automobiles driving along the highways, are disappointed because already those resolutions have been broken, and you are disappointed in yourself and the plans which you had.

There are three things which I would like for you to know. The first one is the time element. Time is a given space in which we have to do certain things. It should not be wasted. Certainly as one great writer in the days of long ago said: "Count that day lost, whose low descending sun views from thy hand no worthy action done." Many people are wasting their time today on the temporal things of this world which will soon be gone. Consideration should be given also to the preparation and care of the spiritual life.

The second thing which people waste is their health. Health is something which has to be cared for. God gives us health and strength and one scripture said: "In Him we live and move and have our being." Acts 17:28. Many people have wasted their health in riotous living. They have wasted their time. They wrecked their health. They have spent their money foolishly.

The third thing is wasted money. I am thinking of a scripture in Isaiah the 55th chapter and the 1st and 2nd verses. It says:

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? hearken diligently unto me, and eat ye that which is good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness."

Now notice this second verse. "Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread?" Thousands of dollars are spent annually on strong drink, tobacco and narcotics which causes one to waste his time, ruin his health, and spend his money foolishly. In addition to this, one finds himself bound by habits which are not easily broken.

Ah! my friends, if this is your condition today, you need help from God. I would like to point you to God who is able to furnish you help.

In the meantime, we have a song for you which I hope will be a blessing to you. Notice this song, WASTED YEARS. Ah! may God help us not to waste our years or spend our time foolishly.

the Lord

The Song WASTED YEARS.

Reading

A maiden fair, a youth of strength, together started out.
Upon life's highway broad and bright, their love was so devout.
They felt the need to turn to God, so went and joined a church,
But for truth and Christ and holiness they failed to go in search.
They prospered well, a family came, they felt they had it made,
But all too soon, the end was near, as vapour life did fade.
When face to face they came to death, they realized all too late,
That wasted years was all they had, how sad, how sad, their state.
All wasted years could we recall, and bring you back again,
We would live for God and work for him, renouncing every sin.
Too late, too late, for we must die, and wasted though our years
Is all we have upon our hands as death it now appears.

Now friends, I want to look at this example of a young man who was seeking pleasure at the expense of his time, his health, and his money. We read in Luke 15, beginning at the 11th verse:

"And he said, A certain man had two sons: And the younger of them said to his father, Father, give me the portion of goods that falleth to me. And he divided unto them his living. And not many days after the younger son gathered all together, and took his journey into a far country, and there wasted his substance with riotous living. And when he had spent all, there arose a mighty famine in that land; and he began to be in want. And he went and joined himself to a citizen of that country; and he sent him into his fields to feed swine. And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him. And when he came to himself, he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. And he arose, and came to his father."

If you find yourself in this condition, what you should do is to arise and go to your Father. **III** I would like to pray with you before you go. Would you agree with me in prayer? Do you believe God answers prayer? I do.

Our Father,

Thou who knowest the hidden secrets of every heart, take this message and make it a blessing to all those listening. Help those who find themselves bound by habits of sin to arise and come to Thee. And when they do so, we pray that you would break the shackles and set them free. Make them happy and joyful.

Bless all those who are sick in body and grant healing and deliverance. Also, we do not forget those who have not heard the gospel, but pray that you would help us to speedily get the word to them for we ask it in the name of Christ our Saviour.

Amen

Before I leave the air, I would like to ask you. "Do you believe it is God's will to have the gospel preached that all may have an opportunity to hear and be saved?" My heart is burdened for the many who have not heard. Will you agree with me that God will help us to reach more in 1965 than we have ever reached before. "Lift up your eyes and look on the fields for they are white already to harvest."

If you have enjoyed this message and would like to have a typewritten copy of it, we would be glad to send you one free upon request. Ask for message number 1465. Simply address The Mission Trail, Guthrie, Oklahoma.

Be with us again next Friday. May God bless you each and every one. And now here is my announcer. Good night!