

What God Says About Today

What is your perspective about today? Surely, the way you view and think about today will make a huge difference as to how you will conduct yourself throughout the day and how you will respond to all the various circumstances you encounter and decisions you will make. Thankfully, God teaches us some important principles in the Bible concerning today that will shape our perspectives. Therefore, let's consider some things God says about today.

1) Today is a day made by God. It can be easy to take today for granted. However, it is sometimes after days of trouble that we gain better perspective regarding the blessing of today and how it has been granted by the hand of God. This was the case in Psalm 118. The author was celebrating the victory and the day that had been given by the Lord (vv. 10-14, 21-24). While there were unique circumstances that prompted this for the author of the psalm, we must recognize that God has brought us (no matter what we have been through or what we are going through) to this day. He has given us breath and life today. He has done so for the purpose that we might seek after and glorify Him (Acts 17:26-28). Therefore, you must learn to view today (and every day) as an opportunity from God to honor Him in it. Thank God for the day and all the day's provisions He has given to you (Matthew 6:11). And, be a good steward of the day He has given you by using it in His service (1 Corinthians 4:2; Matthew 25:14-30)!

2) Today has enough trouble of its own. While some days offer positive experiences from a human perspective, there are also plenty of occasions in life when there is trouble and anxiety. However, Jesus gives perspective about such things in Matthew 6:25-34. Consider some of the main lessons Jesus teaches in this section. First, God will take care of those who seek Him first (as He takes care of the birds and flowers). Second, you can't change things by

worrying. Third, you simply must focus on getting through the troubles of the day without getting lost in worrying about what may or may not happen in the future. The devil would love for you to focus on the uncertainties of the future so that you get consumed by worry and get distracted from serving God. But, Jesus reminds you to seek God's kingdom and righteousness first and to focus on serving Him while dealing with the troubles you actually experience today!

3) Today could be your last day on earth. While we all know that death will be experienced by everyone someday (Hebrews 9:27), most do not live thinking today is that day. So, we may make plans as if we the ones who are in control. However, God teaches people to realize that today is a gift from Him and not to take for granted that you will be gifted with another day of life on earth (James 4:13-17). If you are not prepared for your death and it happens today, you will be in a dreadful condition before God (Luke 12:16-21)! In addition, not only should you recognize that your death may happen today; but you should also recognize that Jesus's coming that ends this world may happen today. For, while many scoff at the promise of His coming and fail to treat it as a real possibility for today (2 Peter 3:3-4), the Bible teaches us that this day will come like a thief in the night (2 Peter 3:5-10). Therefore, His coming could be today (Matthew 24:36). If you are not prepared for His coming, you will stand before Him in judgment and be sentenced to spend an eternity in Hell (Matthew 24:37-39, 42-44, 45-51)!

4) Today is the day of salvation. A day of salvation had been foretold in the Old Testament (Isaiah 49:8). As Paul taught the Corinthians, he demonstrated that there is now reconciliation to God available through Jesus (2 Corinthians 5:17-19). Now, Paul had the message of reconciliation (the

gospel) entrusted to Him and God was making His appeal through him (and others) to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5:20-21). For, the day of salvation has come – and it is today (2 Corinthians 6:1-2)! All people must recognize that salvation through Jesus is available today, regardless of what choices have been made in the past. Today, people can choose to believe and obey Jesus to have the forgiveness of their sins! However, people may also harden their hearts against God today and rebel against Him (Hebrews 3:7-19). Therefore, God teaches that the choice concerning your salvation must be made today (Philippians 2:12)!

5) Today has the same God. Things in this world seem like they are constantly changing. Each day can be full of surprises and revelations. Thankfully, in the midst of great uncertainty and change, God is the same today as He has always been and will always be (Malachi 3:6). Though shadows shift and change in many ways throughout a day, God remains constant (James 1:17). Because Jesus Christ is the same today, we can put our hope in Him regardless of the troubles and dangers we may face in this life (Hebrews 13:5-8). Furthermore, as God does not change, how He wants people to live has also not changed. For, while the wisdom of this world is constantly evolving, the word of God endures forever (1 Peter 1:22-25). Therefore, you must approach today recognizing the same God is over all, the same King reigns supreme, and the same law of God is in effect!

God teaches us how to view today in a way that will result in living to please Him. These things are true today and will remain true until the day you die and/or Jesus returns. Allow these things to frame your perspective about today and challenge you to use today in a way that will honor Him!

Thought Questions

(2 Timothy 3:16-17)

Teaching: What did you learn from this lesson?

Rebuking: What are some ways this lesson challenges you to live differently?

Correction: How does this lesson help you make positive changes for Christ?

Training & Equipping: How can you apply this lesson to be trained and equipped in God's service?