

“WHAT SHALL BE ON THE MORROW?”

We made it! Unlike many, we have made it through 2018, and have entered into the new year of 2019. We are among the privileged. That we are yet among the living is cause for thanksgiving to the God in whom “we live, and move, and have our being” (Acts 17:28a). Many, both younger and older than we, have since moved on into eternity, but God surely has a purpose on earth for all who remain.

The year of 2018 has become a part of history, and now we are taking our first steps in the year of 2019. There may be particular concerns for this new year. The past year has held its griefs, disappointments and frustrations, as well as its good times and joys. It is sometimes difficult to be optimistic about the future when the past has dealt harshly with us. We are reminded by James that we “know not what shall be on the morrow” (James 4:14a). It is increasingly recognized that we live in a dangerous world. Nations, including our own, face financial woes and even bankruptcies. Questions arise about the soundness of the dollar. Jobs are more plentiful, but circumstances can change quickly. Threats of violence over political issues are on the increase. Freedoms we have taken for granted have been threatened. Terrorists around the globe continue to terrorize. Nations flex their nuclear muscles. In such times, it becomes increasingly difficult to face the future with optimism. What shall be on the morrow? Only God holds the answer to that question. Our responsibility is to step out in **faith**, trusting God to see us through both the good times and the bad. The Christian has the assurance that “all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose” (Romans 8:28). It is not that all things are, in themselves, good, but that all things, the good and the bad, are made to work out for our fulfilling the purpose for which God has given us life.

What shall be on the morrow? Whatever transpires in this world will not catch God by surprise. Therefore we can face the new year with **hope**. Hope is more than wishing things would get better. It is a combination of both desire and expectation, which grow out of faith in God and the promises of His word. As Jesus enlightened His disciples regarding calamitous events believers would have to face, He gave them hope by saying, “When these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads: for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28). The redemption we await at Jesus’ return is the “redemption of our bodies” (Romans 8:23), our resurrection. Our hope is not that fallen man will be capable of forming a utopia on earth through any type of political system. The apostle Peter spoke of those in the last days who would scoff at the Christian doctrine of the return of Christ (2 Peter 3:3-4), but he strengthens our hope by saying, “Nevertheless we, according to his promise look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness” (v. 13).

With faith and hope to encourage us, we need not be overly stressed by “what shall be on the morrow.” Jesus calls us to be watching and active in our service to

Him, lest we be found unprepared at the time of His appearing (Matthew 24:42-51).--
Ron