

MARKS OF WISDOM

June 8, 2014

Proverbs 27:1-27

“Boast not thyself of tomorrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth.”

Proverbs 27:1

When boasting of tomorrow, a person:

1. Leans to his own understanding, ignoring God's warnings (Prov. 3:5, 6).
2. Assumes that he owns the future; that he rules all that befalls him.
3. Presumes upon God, who gives life & strength, and lives as if there is no God.
4. Fails to “do all to the glory of God” (I Cor. 10:31).
5. Refuses to consider, “What if there is no tomorrow?”

Biblical Illustrations:

1. In the days of Noah, “they did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noe entered in to the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all” (Luke 17:27).

2. On the eve of Mordecai's scheduled hanging, Haman came to Esther's banquet expecting honor, only to be hanged on the gallows he built for Mordecai (Esther 7:1-10).

3. Belshazzar made a great feast and luxuriated before 1000 lords of his vast and powerful kingdom, anticipating a great future. Daniel announced, “the God in whose hand thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified . . . thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. . . . Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians. . . . In that night was Belshazzar the king of the Chaldeans slain” (Daniel 5:23b, 27, 28, 30).

4. The Rich Fool prospered and said to his soul, “Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?” (Luke 12:19, 20).

5. Ananias and Sapphira sought to deceive the apostles, imagining that they had an ample future. But they lied to God, and died that day (Acts 5:1-11).

A Word to All Who Boast of Tomorrow: James 4:13-17

1. Beware arrogance – everything is dependent upon “If the Lord will,” not your will (15)
2. Acknowledge ignorance – “ye know not what shall be on the morrow” (14)
3. Recognize the vaporous quality of life – “what is your life? It is even a vapour” (14)
4. Realize that life is “a little time” (14)
5. Life “vanisheth away” (14)
6. We ought to say “If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that.” (15)
7. Rejoicing in future-boasting is evil (16)