



APPNOTES

Date: July 20-24 , 2020

Series: James: Faith That Works

Ephesians 5:15-17 These are perilous times. Perhaps not since World War II has our nation felt so threatened. However, this time we are not facing a foe across the ocean, but enemies within. A plague-like virus and social unrest are bringing us to our knees. We can either be paralyzed with fear when we see evil prevailing around us, or we can look up to God for opportunities. We can try to hide until it passes over, or we can ask God how we can be part of the answer. Instead of meditating on the problem, let's think about what God would have us do. We must do good while we have the chance. We can start on our knees in prayer, remembering that God loves us and has our best interests at heart.

Psalms 39:4-5 What if you could gaze into a crystal ball and see your future? We want to see a successful, happy life ahead, or we think if we know beforehand about some tragedy, we can prepare for it. Psychics make money forecasting what's in store for people, but the truth is—we can't really know. However, we can know how fleeting our lives are. It may seem like we have a long time on this earth to accomplish things, but from God's perspective, our season is short. What has God called you to do? Study your Bible? Spend time with your family? Provide finances to the poor? Go on a mission trip? Time goes by quickly. Take advantage of every opportunity and turn those good intentions into good works.

Hebrews 3:1 Did you ever get an important call that changed your life? Maybe you got that dream job after years of study and dozens of applications and rejections. You passed the second interview and the phone rang. You felt thrilled, relieved, and challenged at the same time. Did you know that God has something for you even bigger than that dream job? It's called your heavenly calling. He didn't just call you to get saved and go to Heaven. He called you to help Him establish His kingdom on earth. Every effort you make to share the love of God with others counts in His eyes. Fix your thoughts on Jesus and spend quality time with Him. He will show you your heavenly calling. You are part of His team, and nothing He asks you to do is without importance.

Philippians 3:12 Paul wrote his letter to the Philippians from Rome as a prisoner. He had already completed three missionary journeys and survived a shipwreck. Many of his letters to the churches had already been written, including ones to the Thessalonians, Galatians, Corinthians, and Romans. However, he still pursued knowing Christ, and knew he hadn't finished what God had called him to do. Hardships discouraged him, but did not stop him. Why? He remembered how Jesus had taken hold of him at his conversion on the road to Damascus. He was grateful that Jesus saved and used him, a man who had killed Christians. We may not be the apostle Paul, but God has given us each the assignment to love Jesus and share that love with others. Jesus gave His life for us. Let us live our lives for Him.

Romans 13:11-12 Do you sometimes feel like you are waking up from a bad dream, only to discover it wasn't a dream at all? Life can feel that way during these trying times. We wonder when or if our lives will get back to normal. However, being confined at home has given us time to think about the brevity of life. Some of us have rested for the first time in years. We are learning to be thankful for little things, like sunshine, green grass, and ice cream cones. We've realized the importance of surrounding ourselves with people we love, as we have lived through forced separation and social distancing. Most of all, we appreciate the sacrifice Jesus made on the cross. As we draw closer to His return, let's draw closer to Him. Let the light of Jesus shine through you so others may be encouraged.

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