

Messenger of Truth

"Holding forth the Word of Life" (Phil. 2:16)

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Goals

"Nothing can add more power to your life than concentrating all your energies on a limited set of targets." – Nido Quibein

"If you want to live a happy life, tie it to a goal, not to people or things." – Albert Einstein

"Perfection of means and confusion of goals characterize our age." – Albert Einstein

"We, whoever we are, must have a daily goal in our lives, no matter how small or great, to make that day mean something." – Maxwell Maltz

"You must have long-range goals to keep you from being frustrated by short-range failures." – Charles C. Noble

It certainly is a prudent move to make goals. It is far better to have something to aim for than to wander aimlessly throughout life. A lack of goals can actually lead one to a life of laziness. In such a case, there is no desire to be industrious. The wise man says, "Go to the ant, you sluggard! Consider her ways and be wise" (Prov. 6:6).

The Bible warns us, however, in making plans or setting goals to be cautious that we do not leave God out of our plans. "Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit'; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.' But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil" (James 4:13-16).

What James writes is a reminder to all of us of the brevity of life. Yes, making goals is a wise move, but the bigger picture is the reality that we don't have much time in which to make goals. And with the brevity of life, it certainly is possible that we may not complete what we have started. Even so, we should not allow that to discourage us in making plans for the future.

In modern times, based upon a 2007 movie entitled, "The Bucket List", you will hear folks speak of their personal, "bucket list". Often these are unusual goals that one hopes to reach before they die. One wishes they would have the the same zeal and interest in preparing themselves for eternity.

Long ago God's children heard that cry. "Therefore thus will I do to you, O Israel; because I will do this to you, prepare to meet your God, O Israel" (Amos 4:12).