

Are You Looking Ahead?

by Bill Crews

Any time you go for a walk, whether a saunter in your own neighborhood, a stroll through the woods, or a hike along some nature trail, you need not only to watch the path that's under your feet; you need to look ahead! Any time you drive an automobile, whether to a nearby business, or on a errand across town, or down the highway on business or vacation, you need to notice, not only your immediate surroundings — the car behind you, the car in front of you, and what's on either side of you; you need to look ahead — a few blocks or a few hundred yards!

As you live your life, you also need to look ahead. When children are very young and small, their parents look ahead for them; but as they grow, their parents seek to train them to do their own looking ahead, and to show them how by their own example. We take care of our bodies; we protect our health, because we are looking ahead! We secure an education because we are looking ahead! A marital companion, a family, financial security, a house of our own, an adequate retirement plan all require looking ahead!

BUT most people go through life, all of it, every precious moment of it, never looking far enough ahead!

Rarely do they take a serious look at the inevitable end of this life, and seldom ever do they look at what lies beyond this life! Their view is so out-of-focus that they almost never look at the inevitable things that lie ahead for every human being — **death, the resurrection, the judgment, and eternity** — **in heaven or in hell!** Their priorities are so mixed up that they never give much thought to spiritual things — their souls, the will of God, faith in Christ, honoring the Father, following His Son, reading the Bible, prayer, worship, service to others, the spiritual condition of the souls around them.

Adam and Eve were **not** looking ahead (Genesis 3). Cain was not looking ahead (Genesis 4). Lot was **not** looking ahead (Genesis 13:11-13; 19). Abraham *was* looking ahead (Hebrews 11:10, 13-16). The rich, young, ruler was **not** looking ahead (Matthew 19:16-22). The rich fool was **not** looking ahead — very far at least (Luke 12:15-21). Judas Iscariot was **not** looking ahead (Matthew 26:14-16, 24; 27:3-5). **Nor** the foolish virgins (Matthew 25:1-13). **Nor** the servant with one talent (Matthew 25:14-30). **Nor** Ananias and Sapphira (Act 5:1-10). **Nor** Demas (2 Timothy 4:10). But the apostle, Paul, certainly **was** (1 Corinthians 9:27; Titus 2:13-14; 2 Timothy 1:12; 4:6-8).

Have **you** been looking ahead? How far ahead?

"But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified." ~ 1 Corinthians 9:27

"Looking for the blessed hope and glorious appearing of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave Himself for us, that He might redeem us from every lawless deed and purify for Himself His own special people, zealous for good works." ~ Titus 2:13-14

"For this reason I also suffer these things; nevertheless I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed and am persuaded that He is able to keep what I have committed to Him until that Day." ~ 2 Timothy 1:12

"For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing." ~ 2 Timothy 4:6-8

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