

# The Old Paths

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## “What A Day May Bring ...”

Jarrod Jacobs

**S**olomon wrote, “Boast not thyself of to morrow; for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth” (Prov. 27:1). In remembering the month of February, it struck me that this congregation has said good-bye to three people in that month alone. All three had some infirmity of the flesh, yet they died at different stages in life. One died in infancy (Tim Walker), one was the father of a young child (Philip Belcher), and one was a beloved mother and grandmother (Ruth Boyd). All three passed from this life having been loved and cared for by family, as well having doctors and nurses care for them.

No doubt, these deaths have effected us, and each death causes us to “lay to heart” (Ecc. 7:2) what happened. Each death testifies that we have no lease on life.

God has never promised us a long life; nor has He promised us freedom from worry or problems in this life. In reality, there are very few things we can count on in this life. We are not promised a safe drive home. We are not guaranteed that a home appliance will never fail. We are not promised that we will never get sick. We are not sheltered or immune from tragedy striking our homes in one form or another. When we recognize this, we will begin to appreciate the truth spoken by Solomon in Proverbs 27:1! In addition to Solomon’s words, we remember that Jesus said, “Take

therefore no thought for the morrow: for the morrow shall take thought for the things of itself. Sufficient unto the day is the evil thereof” (Matt. 6:34). How appropriate! Think carefully about those words.

At the same time, in a world of uncertainty, God has given us some promises which are sure and steadfast. For instance, God has promised never to leave or forsake His children (Heb. 13:5). Not only this, but God has promised a Judgment Day in which the righteous will be rewarded, while the wicked will be punished (Rom. 2:7-11; Matt. 25:46; etc.). We may not get such justice among men, but we will get this with God! The apostle Paul wrote, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord” (Rom. 12:19). We know “the eyes of the LORD are in every place, beholding the evil and the good” (Prov. 15:3), and even when we do not think we have received fair treatment, we can be assured that God is aware and that He will be just in all things.

Not only is God and His judgment unchanging, but we can also take comfort in the fact that His word is unchanging. Man’s word changes often, and the things men say today may not be the same thing he says tomorrow. Yet, with God’s word, we can know it does not change! David knew this and stated, “For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven” (Ps. 119:89) While on earth, Jesus said, “Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass

away” (Matt. 24:35). God has given us “all things that pertain to life and godliness” and His word “thoroughly furnishes” men for “every good work” (I Pet. 1:4; II Tim. 3:16-17). Since this is true, does it not give us hope and comfort when we know that His word is unchanging?

### Conclusion

In a world that changes often, we find that the only settled and sure thing is God, and those things related to Him! We do not know all the things that could happen in a day. Often, it is when we get into a “rut,” thinking nothing changes, that our world is turned “upside down”! (see: I Cor. 10:13) Seeing that this is the case, we need to make sure that we rely totally and completely upon the Lord (Prov. 3:5).

Men can lie to us. Disease can ravage a family. Sometimes, people make selfish decisions which end up having an effect on us. No, we do not know what will happen in a day. No one can predict this. When I reflected on the month of February, I had those thoughts. I thought, “Who could have guessed that this group would have experienced three funerals in the month of February alone?”

Yet, for all of this, God is constant and consistent. He loves us and wants the best for us. He sent Christ to die for our sins (Rom. 5:9). He has given us His word to follow (Jn. 12:48). It leads us to Heaven. Seeing that this is the case, may this week be the week that we stop trusting in ourselves and trust in the Lord (Prov. 3:5). In the course of a day or a week, our lives can change in profound ways. Let us therefore, trust in God and hold to His unchanging hand while the storms of life rage!

## Is Your Career Worth It?

Larry Ray Hafley, Baytown, TX

**I**t is good for a man to work and provide for his family. God expects us to do so. "But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel" (I Tim. 5:8). "And let ours also learn to maintain good works for necessary uses, that they be not unfruitful" (Titus 3:14).

However, one must be careful in his labor that he not neglect his family. Hear from Jeffery Skilling, he of Enron infamy, a former high official and officer in that failed company.

"Personal life suffers. Skilling's drive exacted a personal cost. He was divorced from his wife of 21 years in 1997. He later expressed regret about the failure of his marriage and the time he spent away from his three children.

"Years of airplanes, late nights, consulting challenges, heady exhilarations, equity markets that rise and fall, and gen-

eral personal exhaustion make for a bad relationship partner,'

he wrote in a personal note to a Harvard Business School alumni publication in 1999" (Houston Chronicle, February, 2004).

How unutterably sad! Was what he gained in this world's goods, gold, glamour, and glory worth the loss of his family? Only a fool would say so.

Men, brethren, how is it with you? Are you neglecting your wife and children? Are you selling your soul for ashes in your mouth? That is what your wealth will be one day when you wake up to find a wife with whom you have nothing in common and grown children who feel no emotional or family attachment to you. What a sad, lonely, and impoverished man you will be! Oh, you may still have your money, but you will be a broken man, bankrupt with respect to things that endure and are of real value.

Do not spend yourself for a poverty of spirit which will drown you in misery both now and forever.

Are we saying that a man should not pursue his work with vigor and energy? Are we saying he should not tend to his business with diligence? No, we are not, for "He be-

cometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: but the hand of the diligent maketh rich" (Prov. 10:4). "Love not sleep, lest thou come to poverty; open thine eyes, and thou shalt be satisfied with bread" (Prov. 20:13). "Be thou diligent to know the state of thy flocks, and look well to thy herds" (Prov. 27:23).

We are saying that you must exercise moderation in all things (Phil. 4:4-6). If you do not, you will awake one day to find that you have been robbed of true riches. By allowing "the cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in" to choke the life out of your soul, you will wring the last vestiges of love and admiration from the hearts of your wife and children.

Open your eyes and be wise lest you achieve a wealth you cannot afford and pay a price you cannot endure.

### Editor's Note:

Let us be careful to make sure our work to pay the bills (II Thess. 3:10) does not interfere with our "living," in service to God (I Cor. 15:58). These things are not contradictory. God expects us to work with our hands, as well as provide spiritually for our children, and YES both can be done IF we will determine to do it. Fathers, will you do what God expects of you?

Past Radio Questions Are Posted At:  
[www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com)

**David Said:** The blessed man will not associate with evil people, "*But his delight is in the law of the LORD; and in his law doth he meditate day and night*" (Ps. 1:1-2).

**Something to Think About...** Is the Bible your delight, or something that is keeping you from doing what you like???



***I want the truth, give me book, chapter, and verse!***

Come and meet with the church at Southside.  
Our address is: 2920 New Hartford Rd. Owensboro, KY 42303.

### **MEETING TIMES:**

**Sunday Morning Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **9:30 am**  
**Sunday Morning Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **10:20 am**  
**Sunday Evening Worship** \_\_\_\_\_ **6:00 pm**  
**Wednesday Evening Bible Study** \_\_\_\_\_ **7:00 pm**

Our call-in radio program is on **WBIO, FM 94.7**, Sunday afternoon from 12:30-1:00 pm. **Call: 683-9246 (WBIO)** with your Bible question.

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