

This is the Day
(Rev. Dr. John Bartol)

“This is the day the Lord has made; let us rejoice and be glad in it” (Psalm 118:24).

The very first word deserves our attention: THIS! Not just the good days; not just the wedding day or the super sale Saturday but THIS day. And that includes every day - the surgery day, the tax day, the final exam day, the happy day, even the sad day.

I know I have been guilty of a common human weakness and perhaps you have also. Instead of living each day to the full and enjoying what we have now; we tend to either look back with vain regrets over the past or else we face the future with fear and anxiety. As young men and women we could hardly wait to grow up. We wanted to finish school, find a job, get married, have children, watch the children grow up, have grandchildren, and look forward to retirement. And then life is almost over, and we are left with a lot of vain regrets and unfulfilled dreams. This is so sad, wishing our lives away, always looking to tomorrow, hoping to find happiness instead of living in the present moment.

God wants us to live one day at a time. One hour is too short. One whole year is far too long. The days are just right-bite size portions of life. And God has promised to give us strength for each day as it comes. Someone has said that our worst days are never so bad that we are ever beyond the reach of God’s grace and our best days are never so good that we are ever beyond the need of God’s grace.

One final truth which I hope you will never forget-God’s time is always NOW! God’s forgiveness is now. Christ’s salvation is now. God is ready and able to meet your deepest need now. I can say on the authority of God’s word that you can have the peace of knowing that your sins are forgiven and the assurance of eternal life. Not because of your goodness or worthiness before God but through your faith in the atoning sacrifice of Christ and the promises of God’s word.

“He was going to be all that a mortal should be – tomorrow!

- No one would be kinder or braver than he-tomorrow!
- The greatest of workers this man would have been - tomorrow!

But the fact is, he died, and faded from view, and all that he left here when living was through - was a mountain of things he intended to do – tomorrow!”

- Will the days and months find you and I saying tomorrow? God’s time is always now.
- “Today, if you hear His voice, harden not your heart” (Hebrews 3:7,8).

