

Documenting our Lives: Seeing the Future

By Bob Young

Introduction

The future is uncertain, unknown, uncontrollable

We measure life: yesterday, today, tomorrow; past/present/future

Finding our destiny (beshart); what is your destination?

A Difficult Text

Luke 10:17-20

v. 17, in the name of Jesus, similar to power of attorney, Jesus' person

v. 18, Satan's fall, Jesus' purpose

v. 19, authority, Jesus' power

v. 19, no harm, Jesus' protection

v. 20, names written in heaven, Jesus' promise

Documenting Our Lives

The text speaks of "names written in heaven."

Consider how well documented your life is...documents and credentials:

- birth certificate, social security card, immunization records, report cards, baptismal certificate
- driver's license, auto insurance card, HS diploma, draft card; student ID, library card, voter ID, more diplomas
- marriage license, passport, health insurance, car insurance-registration, life insurance
- Blood donation record, Frequent Flyer card
- Looking at my own billfold: AARP membership, AAA membership, Western Michigan Family Encampment lifetime membership
- We hang documents on our walls: certifications for counseling, seminars, various thank you plaques

What is even more important: how does God see our lives?

THE DIVINE PERSPECTIVE

God knows your future, or at least he can know

He may choose not to know

God is interested in your future

Deism is not a correct understanding of Scripture.

It is not as though the world is a great big time bomb.

God is present, controlling, moving the pieces as pawns on a chess board, according to who we are, our will, our desire to follow him.

God wants to be part of your future

God has a great love for his creation, and wants us to move us in his ways/will.

THE HUMAN PERSPECTIVE

You can influence your future life on earth

Planning is “event control”

Cannot control everything, but can control some things.

You can influence your eternal future

Where you go hereafter depends on what you go after here

By what you set your heart on, focus, Col. 3:1-4

By what you set your eyes on, values, Hebrews 12

Let us be people who cannot leave Jesus alone

Once you die, your future is set

Heb. 9:27

THE ETERNAL PERSPECTIVE

Jesus will be part of your future, whether you follow him or not on earth.

Jesus is coming again.

1 Th 4:13, all will see

John 5:28-29, all will be raised

Phil. 2:5-11, all will bow

Acts 17:32, all will be judged