

A Series of Devotions About Marriage Based on 1 Corinthians Chapter 7

LIVING AS THOSE WHOSE TIME IS SHORT

1 Corinthians 7:29-31 “What I mean, brothers and sisters, is that the time is short. From now on those who have wives should live as if they do not; those who mourn, as if they did not; those who are happy, as if they were not; those who buy something, as if it were not theirs to keep; those who use the things of the world, as if not engrossed in them. For this world in its present form is passing away.”

In this country we love to celebrate special occasions such as wedding anniversaries. I can remember when it was common place for a couple to have a festive gathering of family and friends to celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary. Then, for those who attained 50 years of marriage an even larger celebration happened. And, now with greater longevity of life there are a few occasions to celebrate 75 or more years of marriage.

In the midst of St. Paul writing about marriage here in 1 Corinthians 7 there is this odd exhortation, “Those who have wives should live as if they do not. . .” Earlier verses have encouraged husbands and wives to be faithful to each other, serve and take care of one another. Is St. Paul here contradicting his earlier words?

Not at all. A Christian spouse lives their married life to the fullest. Yet, St. Paul here in today’s verses says a Christian lives their life always aware they may leave this world at any moment. This gives you, as a Christian, a different life perspective than the non-believer. While the non-believer is focused exclusively on the here and now, including their marriage and earthly family, the Christian sees, hears and values everything through the promise of Jesus, “I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am”

For those of you who are married, as deeply as you love your spouse, you know that your marriage is temporary. You treasure it in that you treat your spouse as God’s gift to you for as long as He permits you to live your life together here on this earth. Yet, you know that at your death God will separate you from your spouse. At that time God has an even better gift to give you, eternal life with Him. As St. Paul writes in Philippians 1:21 “For me (you) to live is Christ and to die is gain.” Live faithfully in your marriage, knowing that the years God grants you

are precious, but also that you will one day leave this earth to be with the Lord forever.

Prayer: Lord, the time you grant me on earth is so short in comparison to the eternal life you promise me through Jesus Christ. Help me to live my earthly life, including my marriage, to Your glory and honor in anticipation of the eternal life that awaits me. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Christ is surely coming Bringing His reward, Alpha and Omega
First and Last and Lord: Root and Stem of David, Brilliant Morning Star:
Meet your Judge and Savior, Nations near and far!

Grace be with God's people! Praise His holy name! Father, Son, and Spirit,
Evermore the same; Hear the certain promise From the eternal home:
"Surely I come quickly! Come, Lord Jesus, come!"
(LSB 509, vv 1,3)