

Steeple News

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The Promise of Future Things

Some people spend a great deal of their lifetime worrying about the possibility of old things being "done away" with. Of course, we want to keep the things that are of value to us as long as we can, but sometimes our fear of losing them robs us of our enjoyment and value of experiencing the new things which can add so much to our lives.

We probably have all seen individuals with new furniture, new cars or new clothes who refuse to use them for whatever reason. The fear is not only focused on the possible loss of familiar possessions, but that they won't become new again. A similar situation exists in our personal relations with loved ones.

Life is an on-going process. It began before we were born, and it will continue after we die. In a word, it is eternal. But we can become so attached to the past and present that we become afraid of the future.

Understandably, sometimes we would like to stop life at its most present moment, to cherish and live that moment forever. But that is not the purpose of life - only the promise of the future is. The danger is in allowing this natural desire to become an interfering obsession, to let it distort our vision.

Life is intended to be lived. It is a learning and training experience which prepares us for a better life - a place which calls for all things to be "done away" with so all can become new. If we fail to understand that basic promise, then today's happiness will only become tomorrow's burden. That is what happens when parents become overprotective and try to spare a child the experiences of life for fear that life will rob them of their child. It happens when a partner in marriage becomes so jealous that love turns to distrust, and it happens when we let the passing of a loved one - even the fear of it - make us bitter toward life.

Yes, the gift of love runs deep just as God intended. It is one of the few things that lasts beyond this mortal existence. It is eternal, like life itself. Little wonder then that we cling to cherished moments and are saddened at the loss of those we love, but it should be only a temporary sorrow, softened with the understanding that love and family relationships are as permanent as we want them to be.

Much remains to be known about the life to come, but of this we can be sure - it will come, and with it the glorious promises of the future.

Quote of the month:

Advances are made by answering questions. Discoveries are made by questioning answers.

--Bernard Haisch

Rev. Hans Lillejord