

## ONLY 3 DAYS (PART 1)

BY GUY HAMMOND

According to a recent study by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, a family (with a child born in the United States in the year 2000) can expect to spend \$323,836.06, when factoring in inflation for food, shelter and other necessities to raise that child over the next 17 years. That's \$647,672.12 for 2 children; \$971,508.21 for 3 children; \$1,295,344.24 for 4 children. (Ouch, please pray for me, I have four kids!)

When Cathy and I decided to start a family and have children, we did not sit down and look at these figures. Maybe we should have, but the fact is, we just wanted to have children, and love them the best we could. If I had sat down with a calculator and tried to figure out how much it would cost over the next 17 years to raise these kids, there is no way we would have had children. That is not to mention risks of illnesses, broken bones, sleepless nights, worry & concern of raising children in this day and age, and helping them become followers of Jesus. It would have been way too overwhelming.

Likewise, if someone were to tell me on the day I became a Christian, all that I would have to do (and go through) to stay a Christian: You would have had a difficult time getting me into the water. And I'm still like that today. I do not know what the future holds. And if you were to somehow be able to tell me all that I was about to go through over the next 20 years, you would kill me! I couldn't handle it.

If I live the average life span of a Canadian male, I have approximately another 8,000 days left to live. To try and concern myself with what I will go through physically, emotionally, financially and spiritually for those 8,000 days is way too huge for my mind to deal with. I put before you then, that there are only three days that we really have to deal with on a day by day basis just to survive; yesterday, today and tomorrow.

I don't know why, but I seem intent on worrying about a lot more days than those three. I sometimes worry about days and events that are 10/20/30 years old. I also am good at spending time worrying about days yet to come. But really, there are only three that you and I need to bother pouring any brain power into. Let's deal with the two most unimportant days of the three first, Yesterday and Tomorrow.

### **Yesterday.**

I am learning to love "yesterday!" If it was good, then I have pleasant memories, if it was a bad day, a hard day, it's over, and I need not remember it any more. Unfortunately, I have spent a lot of my brain power worrying about my "yesterdays".

For those of us who come from a homosexual past, I believe the number one thing we need to fully employ in regards to our "yesterdays", is that in God's eyes, it's over, so forget it. Whatever sin we committed, it's already been forgiven.

1 John 1:5-2:3 says: *"This is the message we have heard from him and declare to you: God is light; in him there is no darkness at all. If we claim to have fellowship with him yet walk in the darkness, we lie and do not live by the truth. But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin. If we claim to be without sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness. If we claim we have not sinned, we*

make him out to be a liar and his word has no place in our lives. <sup>1</sup>My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have one who speaks to the Father in our defense—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”

If we keep going back asking God to forgive us for our sin yesterday, we do not understand His grace.

*“The LORD is compassionate and gracious; slow to anger, abounding in love. He will not always accuse, nor will he harbor his anger forever; he does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities. For as high as the heavens are above the earth, so great is his love for those who fear him; as far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from us. As a father has compassion on his children, so the LORD has compassion on those who fear him;”*

Isn't God's grace and mercy unbelievable! Leave your tomorrows behind. Stop worrying about them. It does not matter to God what you did, regardless of how sinful you were or how many mistakes you made. As long as you were repentant, it is over, it is done, and you are wasting brain power and energy on something that is gone and done away with. These may be embarrassing memories, things you are ashamed of. Then pray for God to heal your heart over those pains. Just as God never again mentioned the sins of David, regardless of how severe they were, never again will He ever mention yours. That is what the blood of Jesus does for us.

### **Tomorrow**

My tendency is to worry about tomorrow. And the majority of the stuff I worry about never happens or I have no control over. I worry about my bills. I worry about retirement. I worry about getting cancer. I worry about the upcoming hockey season. I worry about world terrorism. I worry about job security. I worry about my bald spot. How can I possibly deal with all of these things to worry about?

Matthew 6:25: *“Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more important than food, and the body more important than clothes? Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? Who of you by worrying can add a single hour to his life? “And why do you worry about clothes? See how the lilies of the field grow. They do not labor or spin. Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendor was dressed like one of these. If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? So do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.”*

Ok! That is hard to improve on. Enough said.

In our time together tomorrow, we will discuss how we should handle the most important of the 3 days; today!

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Thoughts presented in this devotional are taken from the book *MESSED UP: Proof That You're More to God Than Your Mistakes* by Guy Hammond and published by Illumination Publishers. The book is a companion to the documentary movie *FINDING GUY* by One Compass Media.

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