

# SOME THINGS NO MAN KNOWS

## James 4: 14 – 15

Donald Townsley

### INTRODUCTION

1. From our text, we learn that man does not know what shall be on the morrow. James 4:14
2. Only God knows whether there will be a tomorrow.
3. *“The secret things belong unto the Lord our God”* – Deut. 29:29.
4. *“Only those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever”* – Deut. 29:29.
5. Realizing that there are many things we do not know should keep us poor in spirit and completely reliant upon our God.
6. God has given us all things that pertain unto life and godliness – 2 Pet. 1:3.
7. Learning and doing these things will keep us profitably employed.

### I. WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN DEATH MAY COME

- a. We know death will come, but we don't know when – Heb. 9:27; James 4:14.
- b. Of the thousands who died LAST NIGHT, very few expected it, even yesterday.
- c. Now all of these people MUST face God with their RECORD as the RECORD stood when they died – Heb. 9:27; Luke 16: 19 – 26; John 3:18.
- d. Those who died in their SINS are LOST – John 8: 21.
- e. Those who died in UNBELIEF are LOST – John 8: 24; 3:18; Mark 16:16.
- f. Those who died WITHOUT OBEYING THE GOSPEL are LOST—2 Thess. 1: 8 – 9.
- g. Those who died in ERROR are LOST – 2 John 9; Matt. 15:9; 2 Pet. 2:3.
- h. Those who died who are LIARS are LOST – Rev. 21:8.
- i. Those who died UNFAITHFUL to Christ and His church are LOST—Heb. 10: 25 – 31.
- j. Those who died LIVING IN ADULTERY are LOST – I Cor. 6:9.
- k. Those who died having ROBBED GOD of what was rightfully His are LOST (the Covetous) – I Cor. 6:10.

### II. WE DON'T KNOW WHEN THE LORD IS COMING THE SECOND TIME

- a. Matt. 24:36 *“That day and hour knoweth no man”*.
- b. This is not for man to know – Matt. 25:13 *“For ye know neither the day nor the hour”*
- c. But Christians are to BE READY, not asleep – I Thess. 5: 1 – 10; Luke 13: 23 – 24.
  - i. Some sleep the sleep of the weary, as did the disciples Peter, James and John in the Garden of Gethsemane – Matt. 26: 36 – 46.
    1. Many Christians tire of the ceaseless struggle and become worn out and fall asleep – Gal. 6:9 *“And let us not be weary in well doing; for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.”*
    2. Some sleep the sleep of the foolish virgins; they are negligent and careless – Matt. 25: 1 – 13.
- d. When He does come, we should be prepared.

- III. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT WE WILL BE LIKE IN HEAVEN**
- a. I John 3:2 *“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as He is.”*
  - b. We know we will be like Christ – I John 3:2; Phil. 3:21.
  - c. We know we will have a spiritual body – I Cor. 15: 42 – 44.
  - d. We know we will be EQUAL with the angels and be sexless beings – Luke 20: 34 – 36.
- IV. WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT SHALL BE ON THE MORROW – James 4:14.**
- a. There is no more DANGEROUS word than TOMORROW!
  - b. TOMORROW robs multitudes of success.
  - c. *“Boast not thyself of tomorrow”* –Prov. 27:1.
    - i. TOMORROW you may lose your desire to do your duty.
    - ii. TOMORROW may see you incapable of doing your duties because of sickness and other reasons.
    - iii. TOMORROW may bring the Judgment.
  - d. The spirit of TOMORROW caused the ruin of the foolish virgins – Matt. 25: 1 – 12.
    - i. We have a daily religion in Christ – Heb. 3: 13; Luke 9: 23.
  - e. The rich fool had great plans for TOMORROW – Luke 12: 16 – 21.
  - f. Many are waiting until TOMORROW to do what should be done TODAY!
    - i. Obey the gospel.
    - ii. Be restored.
    - iii. Bring up children right.
- V. MAN CANNOT KNOW GOD BY HUMAN WISDOM**
- a. I Cor. 1:21
  - b. Christ is our Wisdom – I Cor.1:30; Col. 2:3, 10.
  - c. Christ has spoken to us by the Spirit through inspired men – Heb. 1: 1 – 2; I Cor. 2: 9 – 13.
  - d. We are not to go beyond this wisdom – 2 John 9; I Cor. 4:6.
- VI. MAN DOES NOT KNOW HOW TO DIRECT HIS STEPS**
- a. I Jer. 10:23 *“O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself; it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps”.*
  - b. When man tries to direct his steps he makes the commandments of God of none effect – Matt. 15:6.
  - c. Examples of men trying to direct their steps:
    - i. Faith only – James 2:24
    - ii. Many churches – Matt. 16:18
    - iii. Salvation out of the church – Acts 2:47
    - iv. Grace only – Eph. 2:8
    - v. Baptism not essential – Luke 16:16
    - vi. Instrumental music – Eph. 5:19.
- VII. CONCLUSION**
- a. I hope this lesson has made us all aware of how dependent we are upon God.
  - b. And, how we must look to God for direction in our lives if we are to please Him.