

Daily View

“But exhort one another every day, as long as it is called ‘today’” Hebrews 3:13



We loved our trip to Europe in 2018 so much, we planned to go back. But... “the best laid plans of mice and men...”

“The Best Laid Plans of Mice & Men...”

You probably made a lot of plans in early 2020, many of which turned to dust. Or, as Robert Burns said, “The best-laid schemes o’ mice an’ men / Gang aft agley, / An’ lea’e us nought but grief an’ pain / For promis’d joy!” Being interpreted, Mr. Burns said,

“The best laid schemes of mice and men often go awry and leave us nought but grief and pain in place of promised joy.” When my plans don’t pan out. These days, I almost always say, “Oh well, the best laid plans of mice and men.”

What “best laid plans” did you have on your 2020 calendar when the year began? Four out of five of our travel plans for 2020 had to be scratched, including a gospel meeting in Oklahoma and a trip to Dodger stadium to watch the second game of the season (against the Giants). Covid-19 brought all those plans and more to a screeching halt — and we don’t like that; we are a “plan-making” people. But the writers of Proverbs have something to say to us:

Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established.” *Proverbs 16:3*

Many are the plans in the mind of a man, but it is the purpose of the Lord that will stand.” *Proverbs 19:21*

Simply put, these Proverbs are telling us that our plans are subject to God’s work and purpose in the world. In other words, our plans can change. *Duh.*

But has being forced to change our plans been all “grief and pain” as Robert Burns said? From what I’ve observed, for most of us, the answer is no. Being forced to stay home has yielded some positive results. Projects were completed that were put off; we spent more time with family and many parents used the time to teach their children, in the spirit of Deuteronomy 6:6-9. In my case, instead of a mere memory, I have credit on file for tickets to a game to see the Dodgers defend their title next year. Oh, and we got 3 weeks to a gallon of gas!

Plans are good but I guess the lesson for all of us was spelled out by James many years ago:

Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit”— yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin. *James 4:13-17*

James reminds us that, when it comes to making plans, we had better remain light on our feet because things can change very quickly. If we haven’t learned that this year, we never will.

*Unless otherwise indicated the opinions expressed in this publication and images used are solely those of David Posey.
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