

A THREEFOLD CORD.

THOU KNOWEST NOT WHAT A DAY MAY BRING FORTH.

Proverbs 27: 1.

Thou knowest not what a day - a year - this year may bring forth.

As we approach the end of 1970 and look across into 1971 - there is the possibility that before the year is done you and I may have passed away. It may be in the sweet hope of the spring when everything is budding forth, or it may be in the brilliant summer-time, or it may be in the sad autumn. I do not know. In all candor - it is far better that we should not know. While we breathe - whether the air is good or polluted - before God let us be happy in not knowing. We do not know what a day or year may bring forth, and it is very much better that we should not. But if we are uncertain about this, we ought to be certain about our God. No uncertainty there. You must know Him. You must know in whom you believe, and trust Him to the uttermost. You must have no uncertainty about God. Your mind must be sure and steadfast - made up. Conclusively. You must be able to say, like Apostle Paul, "I am ready when the call comes, I have fought my own fight, I have kept my faith and I am ready as He was ready. For I know whom I have believed, and I am sure that He is able to guard until that Day what has been entrusted to him."

It is on the last Sunday of the year that we should look to the rock from which we are hewn and to the pit from which we are digged. We should make our calling and election sure. And having done all we can. let us stand upon our feet, and let the countenance of God shine on our face - uncertain about our days in 1971, but certain about our God. Look to-day - 1971 straight up before the new year and say, "O Lord, in Thee have I trusted; let me never be confounded." And so I want to give you just a Scriptural cord to bind you to your God - a threefold cord, for it has been said that threefold cord cannot be easily broken.

The first part of the cord is this - Live by ~~faith~~ faith in God through Jesus Christ. You know where this statement comes from: Paul said, " He loved me and gave Himself for me. The life that I live, I live by faith in the Son of God. Then you can become citizens, not of the moments, not of the hours, not of the days, not of the months, not of the years, not of the centuries, but citizens of Eternity. Live by faith in the Son of God, and the terrors of time will not effect you. Oh, how some men are terrified by the to-morrows. To them to-morrows is a terror it whips and scourges them, holds them over the crater, and shows them the pit. To-morrows may be ruined, our character gone. " I cannot face it; I know not what it may bring forth. What a mystery it is, this future. It is not only that God is a mystery, but you are a mystery, and a mystery to yourself. Life by faith in the Son of God, and then all things are yours.- things past, things present, and things to come.

The second twist in the cord to make 1971 a better year is " Cast all your care upon God. Some folk - some of us - hardly like to face the many cares. Civilization, instead of easing the burden of cares, only increases it. Then we have other cares which trouble us - the difficulties, for instance this questionable war in Vietnam - the difficulties of race, the Church, family, the militancy of our young people - conflict between races, ages, cultural groupings. Frankly - these have always been with us in one form or another. Sometimes it seems that if we do not seek a kind of temporary escape, drugs, alcohol, or some other kind of man made escapes - death or better the word abandonment. The most beautiful thing one can say about death is abandonment. You know nothing about the state after death, but you give yourself up: " Into Thy hands I commend my spirit." And the most ~~beautiful~~ beautiful action of life is abandonment into the hands of God. -- casting your care upon God. it is the beautiful abandonment of death, because, finding that their everlasting arms are round you, and that your

