

# EQUIPPING THE SAINTS

“...FOR THE EQUIPPING OF THE SAINTS FOR THE WORK OF SERVICE...” ~ EPHESIANS 4:12

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## TOMORROW

By Ken Weliever

There is a word in the Bible that is filled with danger. In fact, Jim Kilson calls it “*the most dangerous word.*”

What do you suppose it is? Sin? Satan? Hell?

Kilson shares this hint. “The word is one of the easiest to speak, and one of the most fatal in its effect. It shines like a mirage in the desert, deceiving with a false promise. It’s the word that shines like a beacon, leading fools to their ultimate destruction; it’s without a doubt Satan’s favorite word.....”

*Tomorrow!*

Three thousand years ago the wise man issued this warning: “**Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring**” (Proverbs 27:1)

Tomorrow has been the downfall of many. One writer defined tomorrow this way: “A mystical land where 99% of all human productivity, motivation and achievement is stored.”

Tough decisions are too often put off until tomorrow. In his book *Being the Best* Denis Waitley offers some timely advice. “When you stop to think about it, he says, ‘there is no such thing as a *future* decision. You face only *present* decisions that will affect what will happen in the future. *Procrastinators* wait for just the right moment to decide. If

you wait for the perfect moment, you become a security seeker who is running in place, going through the motions, and getting deeper in a rut.”

The boast of tomorrow often renders us idle, lazy and ineffective today. Tomorrow whispers for us to wait to begin our exercise regiment, improve our diet and start our weight loss program. Tomorrow we confidently say that we will clean out the garage. Call a friend. Pay a bill. Write a letter. Or begin saving money for retirement.

The quandary of tomorrow is humorously expressed by an unknown poet who wrote:

I spent a fortune on a trampoline,  
A stationary bike and a rowing machine  
Complete with gadgets to read my pulse,  
And gadgets to prove my progress results,  
And others to show the miles I've charted,  
But they left off the gadget to get me started!

More seriously our boast of tomorrow causes us to put off repairing a ruptured relationship. Seeking the forgiveness of someone we slighted. Eliminating a hurtful habit. Or starting a new and helpful habit.

The boast of tomorrow has eternal consequences. Ask Felix, the first century Roman procurator in Judea. He was unrighteous, intemperate, and spiritually lost. But he calls for the apostle Paul to hear the gospel preached. Guess what Paul preached? Righteousness. Self-control. And the impending judgment. But Felix balked. Fearfully, he sent Paul away. And waited for a better time to obey. Tomorrow. But it never came.

We are well advised to remember the words of Croft M Pentz, “The flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seed of today.” This is true physically, materially, and spiritually.

None of us is promised tomorrow. Not the billionaire, nor the pauper. Not the young or the aged. Not the saint or the sinner.

Don’t boast about tomorrow. Make today your best day ever. And, if tomorrow comes, it will be made better by today’s diligence.

*[This article was originally published at [thepreachersword.com](http://thepreachersword.com) under the title, “Great Verses of the Bible: Proverbs 27:1.”]*

## **THE PENITENTIARY**

*By Colton McDaniel*

Recently, I became aware of the etymology of ‘penitentiary’. It was first a word derived from the Latin word *peniteniaria* (meaning ‘repentance’), which later formed into the English word ‘penitence’. The idea behind these origins was that isolation would stir up reformation, particularly due to sins committed against the church (i.e. prostitution). It would then make sense as to why a penitentiary is called a ‘house of correction’.

It is easy to see where this principle of penitence comes from when you consider a few examples. A pattern familiar to me was when my sibling and I would do something wrong and my parents would say, “Go to your room and think about what you’ve done”. It is based off of a natural understanding that being completely alone stirs the mind to contemplation.

Yet God is not ignorant of this style of punishment and

He implements it often in the Scriptures. In the Old Testament, He made a promise that He would be with Israel if they obeyed Him, but when someone would disobey He would command that they be put outside the camp (cf. Numbers 15:30-31). In the New Testament, God commanded that if someone sinned and refused to repent they would be cast out from among the congregation (cf. 1 Corinthians 5).

Remember what the purpose for a penitentiary is though. It is not to kick people out of society simply because we do not like them, but it is for them to change. Often in the Old Testament people would come back and repent before the Lord and the same is the purpose of isolation in the New Testament. We want them to think about what they have done, what it has cost them, and repent!

**NOTES:** \_\_\_\_\_  
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**AM LESSON:**  
Are You A  
Christian?

**PM LESSON:**  
Bearing Fruit

**“GO THEREFORE AND MAKE DISCIPLES...”  
(MATTHEW 28:19-20)**