

Fourth Quarter Strategies – Saturday, September 9, 2017

In Spanish, the term *por la mañana* conveys that whatever we're contemplating can wait until the morning! Culturally, we find that our neighbors in Central and South America appear to have a more laid back approach to life in general. Having a *Mañana Mentality* can have its advantages and its drawbacks. There's more to this than simply long siestas and putting off for tomorrow that which we might accomplish today.

As a young boy, I spent several years on my grandparents' farm and our daily pattern was to take a long nap after lunch in the hottest part of the day in South Central Texas. I learned the importance of rest, but then we would follow that rest with getting back in the field or whatever other task we needed to accomplish that day. Yes, there were some afternoons spent fishing in the creek a half mile away. Then again, we would clean our catch and Grandma would prepare a delightful meal. Some things may well be best handled in the early hours when we are fresh and attentive to the task at hand. Yet we need to be cautious to not get caught putting off tasks indefinitely.

Our attitude can easily become "Why rush a project when we can relax and take our sweet time?" Unfortunately, tomorrow can turn into next week, next month, next year and possibly never. My clients always seem to appreciate their business being completed on a timely basis. Yes, there can be delays in completing tasks, but such delays need to be communicated to the client to show our concerns to complete the work as promised. As followers of Christ, we are instructed by Paul in Colossians 3:23-24 *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward."*

Paul certainly did not have a *Mañana Mentality*. He was passionate about serving his Lord and we need to do the same. Yet, while we are in this world we need to be diligent in all we do. We certainly don't want to be seen as lazy and lethargic. We need to demonstrate the Joy of the Lord and live our lives in a way that pleases Him. He wants us to actively pursue Him and draw near to Him in all aspects of our lives, which includes loving others and putting their needs above our own needs.

In Romans 13:10-12, Paul concludes *"Love does no harm to its neighbor. Therefore love is the fulfillment of the law. And do this understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake up from your slumber, because your salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light."*

We need to get out of our slumber and focus on our Lord and being the best possible stewards of all He has bestowed on us. His blessings are countless and we need to wake up and see that the Day of Salvation is at hand. Don't put it off until tomorrow! *Mañana* may be too late!

Passages to Ponder: Proverbs 15:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6; Titus 2:11-14; 2 Peter 3:10-13;

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Proverbs 15:23 New International Version (NIV)

²³A person finds joy in giving an apt reply—
and how good is a timely word!

1 Thessalonians 5:1-6 New International Version (NIV)

The Day of the Lord

5 Now, brothers and sisters, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, ²for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. ³While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

⁴But you, brothers and sisters, are not in darkness so that this day should surprise you like a thief. ⁵You are all children of the light and children of the day. We do not belong to the night or to the darkness. ⁶So then, let us not be like others, who are asleep, but let us be awake and sober.

Titus 2:11-14 New International Version (NIV)

¹¹For the grace of God has appeared that offers salvation to all people. ¹²It teaches us to say "No" to ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright and godly lives in this present age, ¹³while we wait for the blessed hope—the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, ¹⁴who gave himself for us to redeem us from all wickedness and to purify for himself a people that are his very own, eager to do what is good.

2 Peter 3:10-13 New International Version (NIV)

¹⁰But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.

¹¹Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives ¹²as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat. ¹³But in keeping with his promise we are looking forward to a new heaven and a new earth, where righteousness dwells.