



BIBLEWAY MINISTRIES

MAKING A DIFFERENCE—THE BIBLE WAY



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For all of us the door to the past is closed forever and can never be reopened. For some that is a very good thing, for the past holds painful memories of mistakes we made that pulled us away from God and His will for us. For some the past holds pleasant memories, but even pleasant memories are sometimes painful because we know that **we cannot bring the “good old days” back** and relive them. And yet some find it hard to leave the past, whether good or bad. In fact, what is really amazing is even those times we thought were good, if we carefully reflected on them, we would often find that the “good old days” are only as good as we remember them to be. You see, the mind is often selective when it comes to the events of our past. The experiences we remember helped to shape and make us into the people that we are today.



Only the present is ours. Yet we dare not live just for the moment. The past has shaped us and will have an impact on how we make decisions today or tomorrow. In the frail, mortal bodies that we dwell in, an accident, unexpected illness, the actions of a friend or enemy, or even some event in a remote part of the world may dramatically change our future.

I know that this has not made any of us feel better in a world of uncertainties. But here are two things we can know for certain: At some point in time — days, weeks, months, or years from now — we will breathe our final breath. The other thing we can know for certain is that *while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.* (Romans 5:8) Our faith in that fact can give us the assurance to face whatever the future brings. Rest in the comfort of knowing the joy that we will experience when we see our Savior face to face will

Just as the door to the past has limited access and can only be relived in our memories, the door to the future has limited access that is only accessed moment-to-moment through the present. Often we imagine what it would be like if we had a crystal ball that would give us the power to penetrate the darkness that shrouds the future. As we get older, however, we learn the value of taking one day at a time!

be like nothing we could ever imagine, for He shall wipe all our tears away (Revelation 21:4). This may seem euphoric if you’re not a Believer, and that’s OK! But if you would like to know why this joy is possible, just click on this [link](#).

Because our God holds the future,





It has been 14 years since the September 11 terrorist attacks on the United States. As we strive to move forward, the painful memories still linger. Since the event, many changes have occurred in national security — some we see in every airport; others are imperceptible. But let's be honest: are we

really safer today than on September 11, 2001? How would you respond to the following questions?

- Do you feel our country is more or less safe after the 9/11 attacks?
- Do you feel the world is more or less safe since 9/11?
- Do you feel Islamic extremism is more or less of a threat now?
- Do you feel other world powers, namely Russia, Iran, and China, are more or less hostile toward the United States now?
- Do you feel more or less confident in our government's ability to protect the US from an attack by our enemies?
- Do you feel political partisanship has made effective change in our social, military, and foreign policy more or less possible?
- Do you feel the Iranian nuclear deal will make the world more or less safe?
- Do you feel the constitutional rights and concerns of Christians are acknowledged more or less by the government now?
- Do you feel the government is more or less likely to plead for the release of imprisoned, overseas, American Christians?

If you answered "less" to most or all of these questions, then you have sided with the 47% of Americans who believe our country is less safe now than before the 9/11 attacks. With the chain reaction caused by ISIS beheadings of American, European, Middle Eastern, and Christian captives, it's no surprise we feel this way.

Acts of aggression are happening closer to home as well. Consider this shocking news piece from September 2: "Navy Commander Bill Urban, a Pentagon spokesman, confirmed to Fox News Wednesday [September 2] that three surface warfare ships, one amphibious assault ship and one supply vessel from the People's Liberation Army [of China] Navy had been sighted in the Bering Sea. It was the first time that Chinese ships had been seen in the body

of water separating Alaska and Russia."

Our enemies are getting bolder. The world is growing more dangerous. It's the perfect time to shake in our boots, right? Only if our hopes rest in our government.

Changes in our country, culture, and world may dismay us. Christians may choose to respond to the troubles of our times with worry and fear, but this is only a choice; it is not the only choice available. Choice implies alternatives. A better choice would be to view our country and world through a different lens, one where God looms large on the horizon of our daily experiences.

Jeremiah wrote to the Jewish people, *Truly in vain is salvation hoped for from the hills, and from the multitude of mountains: truly in the Lord our God is the salvation of Israel.* (Jeremiah 3:23) It is easy to look to the hills of law enforcement or the mountains of our . . . [Keep reading >>>](#)



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