

# Moment by Moment

By Paul R. Blake

## Introduction:

### A. We live moment by moment

1. A moment is defined as, "an indefinitely short period of time which has important effects or influence on the future."
2. Life is filled with moments of varying impact on our lives, such as: The moment we decide to leave home and begin life apart from parents, get a job, get married, or moments of tragedy, the moment we are diagnosed with an illness, or death of a family member, the loss of a spouse, etc.
3. These moments combine to shape who we are and what we will be

### B. Wisdom instructs us to live moment by moment

1. Rejoice in the things that are present; the future is beyond thee.  
(Montaigne)
2. Waste not fresh tears over old griefs. (Euripides)
3. The ability to be in the present moment is a major component of mental wellness. (Abraham Maslow)
4. Never let the future disturb you. You will meet it, if you have to, with the same weapons of reason which today arm you against the present.  
(Marcus Aurelius)
5. Do not let your shadow walk you. You are not a slave of the past.  
(Dodinsky)
6. Life is a succession of moments. To live each one is to succeed.  
(Coria Kent)

### B. The Bible is filled with moments and the people who were defined by them.

1. Whether or not they stayed aware of the moment determined the future and either validated or voided the past

## I. EXAMPLES

### A. Adam and Eve in the moment they disobeyed God - Gen. 3:6-8

1. Expelled from the most beautiful, pleasant setting ever experienced by a human being in this world, made to live out the rest of their lives in hard circumstances made harder by knowing what they lost, no more access to the tree of life and so destined to die, and worst of all to be known for eternity as the people who invited sin into this world to curse all men

### B. Moses in the moment he struck the rock - Num. 20:3-12

1. Consequences: He had spent over 80 years of his life training for this task of leading people into the promised land. He would spend another 40 years getting them there, but would never be able to cross the Jordan himself. He would merely be allowed to gaze over it from Mount Pisgah before his death.

### C. Peter in the moment he denied Jesus - Luke 22:55-62

1. To be second only to Judas in infamy for his behavior during the crucifixion of Christ, to spend the rest of his days remembering how he disappointed the Lord, to write two epistles where his self-recrimination can be seen between every line
- D. Stay in the moment and think about what you are doing!

## II. THE POWER OF A SINGLE MOMENT

- A. Every moment brings an opportunity
  1. An opportunity to choose right over wrong.
  2. An opportunity to please and glorify God.
  3. An opportunity to live and share the life of Christ
- B. Every moment has consequences - Psalm 90:12

## III. INSTRUCTIONS

- A. Make the most of your moments - Col. 4:5-6; Eph. 5:15-17
- B. Set proper priorities - Matt. 6:33
- C. Steadfastly maintain right relationship with God - 1John 3:1-3
  1. We are never going to make a difference in this world until the world sees a difference in us. Nietzsche, the German philosopher, was the philosophical founder of the Nazi Movement in Germany. He was the first man in history to come to the conclusion that "God is dead." He came to that conclusion by looking at Christianity. Do you know what he said about Christians? He said, "If you want me to believe in your Redeemer, you are going to have to look a little more redeemed."
- D. Be content with the limitations of the moment - 2Cor. 12:7-10
  1. "If only I could have..." "When I get..." "I can't while things are this way"
  2. I asked God for strength that I might achieve.  
I was made weak that I might learn humbly to obey.  
I asked God for health that I might do greater things.  
I was given infirmity that I might do better things.  
I asked for riches that I might be happy.  
I was given poverty that I might be wise.  
I asked for power that I might experience the praise of men.  
I was given weakness that I might feel the need of God.  
I asked for all things that I might enjoy life.  
I was given life that I might enjoy all things.  
I got nothing that I asked for - But everything I had hoped for....  
Almost despite myself, my unspoken prayers were answered
  3. We are not content with this moment because we want to define it our way. We want to live in the past or wait around for a better future because we want the present to be our way.  
I'll have my own way, Lord, I'll have my own way,  
I'll be the potter, You be the clay;  
I'll mold You and make You after my will,  
While you are waiting, be yielding and still.

Conclusion:

- A. We live from one moment to the next.
  - 1. Only the ignorant believe this diminishes the past
    - a. In fact, we are who we are in this moment because of what we have done in the past
    - b. But we can rise above it or sink below it
  - 2. Only the foolish believe this dismisses the future
    - a. In fact, our future is determined by what we do in this moment
    - b. We can build it up or tear it down
- B. But we cannot live in the past or future; we live one moment at a time
  - 1. You do not have to carry the sins and sorrows of the past through this moment into the future
    - a. You will harm yourself if you do
    - b. Let them go and focus on the present
  - 2. You do not have to face all of the future in this moment; you will discourage yourself into immobility if you try
    - a. You face only the temptation of this moment
    - b. The task of this moment
    - c. The trial of this moment, and no other
- C. Learn from the past, prepare for the future, but stop trying to live in both of them in this moment