Looking Ahead
Phil. 3:13

Introduction:
A. This is time of year when people look back and ahead.
   1. Romans named January for Janus (two faces looking in opposite directions)
   2. Business people both review and plan.
B. It is natural to look and plan ahead.
   1. Animals do it instinctively: Squirrel stores food, geese fly south.
C. It is good to look ahead, if kept in perspective.
   1. Paul was ready to die. (Phil. 1:21,23).
   2. Yet, still looked ahead if allowed to live. (Phil. 2:23,24)
D. Our look ahead should have three qualities to it.

Discussion:
I. We Should Take A Far-sighted View Of The Future.
   A. Plan for eternity because life is uncertain.
      1. Life is not guaranteed for tomorrow. (Jas. 4:13,14).
      2. Life is pictured a brief by striking figures.
         a. A flower. (Jas. 1:10,11).
         b. A vapor. (Jas. 4:14)
         d. A tale (KJV), sigh (NKJV,ASV), moan (NIV). (Psa. 90:9-10).
      3. Life was over for Rich Fool—had only planned for time. (Lk. 12:16-21).
   B. Plan for eternity because Jesus is coming unannounced. (2 Pet. 3:10-14)
   C. Plan for eternity because it alone is secure. (Mt. 6:19-20).

II. We Should Take A Hopeful View Of The Future.
   A. Faithful Christian has no reason for anxiety about future. (cf. Mt. 6:30-34).
      1. Knows that death does no permanent harm. (2 Cor. 5:1-10).
      2. Knows that good comes to him both in life and death. (Phil. 1:21).
   B. Faithful Christian has every reason for hope about future. (cf. 1 Pet. 3:15).
      1. He has the forgiveness of sins. (Rev. 1:5-7; Acts 22:16; 1 John 1:7).
      3. He knows the end of his labor. (1 Cor.15:58; Phil. 3:12-14; 2 Tim. 4:8).

III. We Should Take A Submissive View Of The Future.
   A. We will do some things if God wills (James 4:13-16)
      1. Not a mere resignation.
      2. But a real desire to have God’s will done. (Mt. 26:42; Lk. 22:42).
   B. We will do some things because God wills. (1 Pet. 4:1,2).
      1. God's will for our salvation from past sins.
      2. God's will for living in this present world. (Tit. 2:11,12).
      3. God's will for the church.

Conclusion:
A. How do you look ahead to next year?
   1. With hope?
   2. With consideration for God's will?
B. Why not begin by correcting past — obey gospel.