

University of Notre Dame
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Live TODAY - and ONLY Today - but not FOR Today.

It isn't only the freshmen who make the mistake of regarding school as merely a preparation for life. It IS life, the only life some of you will ever know. It is a rare and singular favor to go through an entire school year without the death of a student. It is safe to predict that this year will be no exception, and that before another year rolls around one or more of us will take the final examination. And since that is so it behooves us to make the most of the day, "for the night cometh in which no man can work."

Today..... and only today! Why "only"? This is the time of year when students, from freshmen to postgraduates, get the blues because they are making no progress. The old "inferiority complex" asserts itself here and there and hinders work. They look at the picture of old students in the Sorin gallery, they size up alumni who come back for a football game, they look forward to their own life in the world - in deadly competition for bread and butter - and panic seizes them. They will never make the grade! It's too much. They are out of their class. Better get back to the pick and shovel.

Perhaps.... It might be for the best.... but not for most of those who get that notion. Most of the real misfits feel themselves very much at home. They don't say, "I fell down because I didn't work," but, "So-and-so flunked me, the big stiff." They have the "superiority complex" instead of its baser rival. They need to work today, and not only today but every day, and work like badgers - for the night is already at their door.

But the others, the patient toilers who are not patient enough to await results, need to live ONLY today. They have never yet met a twenty-four hours they couldn't get through, and they need to remember that the Lord never gives them more than twenty-four hours at any one time. And if twenty-four hours seems too much for them to tackle, they can break that up, like the old monk who wrestled with temptation and prayed, "O Lord, give me the grace to last till noon, and after dinner I'll ask You again." It was Our Lord Who said, "Sufficient to the day is the evil thereof." Wm. James tells these students who are troubled about the course they pursue and the progress they make, that if they stick patiently at their tasks day by day they will gradually build up the power of judgment, the quality employers look for in a college graduate. And at Notre Dame they will also build up the moral courage of strong will power, if they practice their religion day by day as they should.

But not FOR today. Why not? Well, the chances are that you will do a shabby job if you live only for today. If you live for eternity, the life between now and then will be taken care of to the best advantage. That holds for the material world as well as the spiritual. Take your physical life. The best preparation for sound health is living the law of God, which is the law of reason. Take your business life. The best way to avoid the pitfalls of passion and prejudice which disturb business judgment is to fix your mind on eternity, for that vision is so long that it can't even see the petty annoyances that disturb judgment on a problem here and now to be considered. Take your moral life. "In all things remember thy last end and thou shalt never sin."

For The Next One Of Us To Die.

The four Masses and 3206 Holy Communions offered during the Mission for the next one of us to die were applied to Prof. McCue, for he was placed on leave of absence when he left here four years ago, the President refusing his resignation. The 7:00 Mass tomorrow will be offered for the next one of us to die, and your Holy Communions are bespoken for that same intention.

PRAYERS: A friend ill (with a ruptured appendix). Two special intentions.