

# THE Best IS YET TO COME

## Go To The Ant

Pastor Lyle Tard

*Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.*

Proverbs 6:6-11 (NIV)

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An article [published in Science.org](#) stated that people directly experience only themselves here and now but often consider, evaluate, and plan situations that are removed in time or space, that pertain to others' experiences, and that are hypothetical rather than real. In other words, we tend to see ourselves in short-sided terms but have the ability to dream big and think long if we change our perspective. Indeed, the key to grabbing hold of the reality that the best is yet to come requires a shift from a short-term view to a long-term view. So it stands to reason that we must begin to think long and outside of ourselves.

Often Pastor Mark will say we tend to overestimate what we can accomplish in a year. Of course, we also tend to underestimate what we can accomplish in a decade. Before I go to the word, consider this - [A study done in 2017](#) revealed that companies that operate with a true long-term mindset have consistently outperformed their industry peers since 2001 across almost every financial measure that matters. Average revenue and earnings growth were 47% higher, and companies that were managed for the long term added nearly 12,000 more jobs on average than their peers from 2001 to 2015. What I found strange is that the Harvard Business Review article this was cited in was titled "Finally, Evidence That Managing for the Long Term Pays Off." What?

Here's my assessment. Because people tend to experience themselves in the here and now, they tend to believe that the here and now is all that matters. Since we are only able to put our

hands-on and make a difference with the things we can control in the moment, those are the things we place the most value in. I think that people believe that to be the superior vantage point. My question is - is it more superior than an ant?

Proverbs 6:6-11 says Go to the ant, you sluggard; consider its ways and be wise! It has no commander, no overseer or ruler, yet it stores its provisions in summer and gathers its food at harvest. How long will you lie there, you sluggard? When will you get up from your sleep? A little sleep, a little slumber, a little folding of the hands to rest-- and poverty will come on you like a thief and scarcity like an armed man.

I don't know about you, but I feel like Solomon just came for me! The wisest man outside of Jesus is saying that the ant knows what it is to see into the future, think long, and put parameters in place that will allow the ant to be successful not only now, but in the future. Thinking like the ant takes a shift of perspective, a change in thinking, and a level of discipline that requires sacrifice. Trust me, thinking long is hard work! Stanford University researcher Robert Sapolsky says that a grandmaster chess player can [burn 6,000 calories in a chess tournament](#). Why? Chess players cannot just make the next move on the board. They must think long about the pieces, their power, and how to use each piece to win the game. Those 6,000 calories is three times what the average person consumes in a day! Grandmasters see the chessboard and wear slight smirks on their faces because they look at the chess pieces and realize that the best is yet to come. They can see the move before it happens and they've thought long and hard about how they can overcome it.

Go to the Ant and think long. Happy Wednesday!  
The Best is Yet to Come.

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*What has hindered you from seeing past the present moment? How can you begin to partner with God for all the things to come in your life?*