I have seen members of Christ’s body virtually driven away by ungodly rumor-mongering, not from the world, but from their own brothers and sisters in Christ! Someone may say, “They were wrong to let anything come between them and the Lord, no matter what!” True enough, but hear the words of Jesus: “It is impossible that no offenses should come, but woe to him through whom they do come. It would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were thrown into the sea, than that he should offend one of these little ones” (Luke 17:1, 2).

Perhaps you have heard that the tongue is slippery and hard to control, so God imprisoned it behind two sets of bars (the teeth and the lips). That illustration at least reminds us of our responsibility to control and restrain our speech. Unless we do, our religion is useless.

Worrying About What’s Next

I have a good friend who lives in Kentucky. He’s such a huge fan of UK basketball that he gets a bit too worked up while watching their games. Therefore, instead of watching their games live, he records them and bides himself with other things. When the game is over, he checks the final score. If UK won, he can then sit down and watch that game without any worry or stress. No matter how “nip and tuck” the game may be, he doesn’t worry because he knows how the game ends.

I believe there’s a lesson here for all Christians. Too many of us worry about what tomorrow holds. We fret about what will happen next. However, here’s my question: “Why should we worry about what happens next when we know what happens last?”

Life holds a lot of ups and downs, even for the Christian. But that is no reason to unduly worry and fret about tomorrow, for we know what happens in the end! We’ve read the end of the book, haven’t we? And the book records that in the end, we’re victorious. (Revelation 2:10)

So, the next time you’re tempted to overly concern yourself with what will happen next, just remember that you know what will happen last!

--Steve Higginbotham (Knoxville, TN)