

SET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER

Int.

1. Aim: To discuss what we must do to get our life arranged and ready if we knew we were going to die in a short time, and then make the application that we should always be prepared.
2. II Kings 20:1-6 v.1 "Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live." NKJV
 - a. Hezekiah was sick - it was a serious disorder or sickness
 - b. The prophet Isaiah told him that he would die
 - c. Therefore get prepared by setting your house in order.
 - i. Make a will
 - ii. Take care of all affairs that need to be done before you die
 - d. B.B.E. "Put your house in order, for your death is near."
3. We need to do the same - set our house in order
 - a. Because the death rate is 100%
 - i. One death for one birth
 - ii. 153,000 people die every day.
 - iii. 6,390 die every hour
 - iv. 107 deaths every minute
 - v. A person dies every 1.78 seconds
 - b. Heb. 9:27 "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"
 - c. Ps. 90:10 "The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away."
 - d. Death occurs when the spirit departs from the body - James 2:26

- e. The body will return to the dust and the spirit will return to God - Eccl. 12:7
4. We need to set our house [life] in order and be prepared at all times.
- a. Suppose you knew that you would die next Friday.
 - b. Your funeral arrangements would be made by your family and it would be next Sunday afternoon.
 - c. What would you do to set your house in order?

Discussion

I. GET SOUL PREPARED FOR HEAVEN

A. Obey The Gospel

1. You would Quit making excuses - anxious to learn the truth
2. Read and study and ask all kinds of questions.
 - a. Is this really the plan of salvation ? - (H.B.R.C.B. =S.)
 - b. Would read and study the examples in the book of Acts to be sure.
 - c. Is this the church Jesus said he would build - Mt. 16:18 or one that he said he would root up? Mt. 15:13 ?
 - d. Is baptism really necessary, and is it immersion?
3. Then obey - If I knew that my time was almost gone, I would obey immediately!!
That would be the most important thing in my life!
4. I would not wait until Thursday night.
5. Because I would want to be a part of the church that I read about in the New Testament.

B. Be Restored [For those who have already obeyed]

1. Some of you are living in sin
2. Would be lost if you died now
3. If you knew you were going to die next Friday then...
4. You would repent, make the changes, confess and pray
 - a. Acts 8:22 - Simon Repented and prayed to God
 - b. 1 John 1:9 "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
 - c. If you knew that you only had 5 days left on this earth you would be certain that you were restored. Jas. 5:19-20
 - d. Would not wait until Wednesday night !

II. READ THE BIBLE

A. Would set aside some time

1. Busy with all other details of last week of life
2. But I would make time to read - especially about the judgment and heaven.
3. I would especially be anxious to read Matt. 25 [judgement] ,
1 Cor. 15 [resurrection] and Rev. 21 [Heaven]

B. Why would I want to read the Bible?

1. This is the book that tells us about God, the judgment, heaven, and all the things we need to know in order to get to heaven.
2. It would be the most important reading material in my life during the last week.
 - a. John 12:48 "...the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

- b. Ps. 119:105 "Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."
 - c. Ps. 119:11 "Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!"
3. Might stay up late one or two nights to read, or get up early in order to study.

III. ATTEND ALL SERVICES

A. Would want to worship God

- 1. Heb. 10:25
- 2. Ps. 122:1 "I was glad when they said unto me, Let us go into the house of the Lord."

B. More important than sleeping, fishing, visiting or anything

- 1. Mt. 6:33
- 2. There would be no excuses for missing.
- 3. I would be present at all the services. I would want to come early and stay late to enjoy the fellowship with my fellow christians.

IV. GIVE LIBERALLY

A. Would give a good percentage of what my salary was

- 1. I Cor.16:2 "as God hath prospered"
- 2. II Cor. 9:6-8 I would give bountifully. There would be no grudging or unhappiness. I would be a cheerful giver.

B. Would not be stingy — If I knew that I would be dead in a few more days.

C. Matt. 6:19-21 - I would want to be laying up treasures in heaven. I would consider this as an investment in eternity.

V. SETTLE ALL PROBLEMS

A. Fusses and misunderstandings would be cleared with fellow man

1. Rom. 12:18 "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men."
2. Matt. 5:23-24 ""Therefore if you bring your gift to the altar, and there remember that your brother has something against you, 24 "leave your gift there before the altar, and go your way. First be reconciled to your brother, and then come and offer your gift."
3. We would want to be sure we had done no wrong for which we had not apologized

B. Hard feelings between Christians would be settled

1. We would forgive one another - Eph. 4:31-32 "Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice: 32 And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."
2. Others would be happy to forgive you, if they knew you would be buried in a few days.
3. Col. 3:13 "bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."

VI. TEACH SOMEONE

A. Special friend or relative

1. Great Commission - Mk.16:15-16
2. We all have some special person who is not a Christian
3. We had planned to teach them some day

- B. Would put forth my best effort to convert him or her.
- C. Restore that erring brother or sister - James 5:19-20 "Brethren, if any of you do err from the truth, and one convert him; 20 Let him know, that he which converteth the sinner from the error of his way shall save a soul from death, and shall hide a multitude of sins."

CONCLUSION

1. II Kings 20:1-11
 - a. Hezekiah prayed to God
 - b. He was given 15 more years
 - c. During this time he could set his house in order
2. If these are things you would do if you knew you only had one more week, why not do them now?
 - a. You may not have even that long.
 - b. Even if you have more time you will be happier with yourself, you will have peace of mind.
 - c. Most of all you will be prepared for death, and this means you will be prepared for living.
 - d. This would be the best way to live every week of your life, even if you have 100 years before you die.
 - e. If you would do these things if you knew you would die, why not do them if you knew you were to live?
3. Set your house in order so that you may live in heaven eternally -
4. Heb. 9:27

5. A person had no choice in coming to the earth, but we do have a choice of where we are going for eternity!
 6. Set Your house in order
 - (1) Obey the Gospel
 - (2) Read your Bible
 - (3) Attend all services
 - (4) Give liberally
 - (5) Settle all problems
 - (6) Teach the Lost
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