

II Ki 20:1 In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.'"

Have you ever heard someone pray that the Lord might “teach us to order our days”.

I liked that phrase and what it should mean to each Christian.

From time to time as we discuss various business ventures, our family thinks about what it means “to order our days.” What if one of us were not there to take care of this or that venture? Who knows how to take care of our responsibility?

As we look to the Scriptures, we find something similar in the life of Hezekiah, one of the very few “good” kings of Judah.

The Lord told Hezekiah to set his house in order for he was about to die.

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There are times we know that we need to get ready to die. One of them is when we are desperately ill.

II Ki 20:2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed to the LORD, saying, 3 "Remember now, O LORD, I beseech Thee, how I have walked before Thee in truth and with a whole heart, and have done what is good in Thy sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. 4 And it came about before Isaiah had gone out of the middle court, that the word of the LORD came to him, saying,

5 "Return and say to Hezekiah the leader of My people, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of your father David, "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; behold, I will heal you. On the third day you shall go up to the house of the LORD. 6 "And I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David's sake."

If you knew you were going to die
in one week, what would you do?

You might want to say goodbye to a
large number of people.

We aren't going to get to talk to
them again after that week unless
we meet them in glory.

Concerning his dead son, David said

2 Sam 12:23 "But now he has died; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me."

Like David, we know we are not going to have a chance to talk to a dead loved one again, this side of eternity.

You might want to make amends for things that you might have said in haste to others.

Matt 12:36 "And I say to you, that every careless word that men shall speak, they shall render account for it in the day of judgment.

Ecc1 12:14 For God will bring every act to judgment, everything which is hidden, whether it is good or evil.

Right now, everything you say is either between you and God or you, God and some other person. But on judgment day everything is going to be revealed, unless it has been covered by the blood of the lamb.

There might be some things that you would want to say, recognizing that with you facing death, surely the person to whom you said them would want to take advantage of your perspective.

When Jeremiah was sent to warn Israel, he knew they might kill him but that wouldn't matter for them.

Jer 26:13 "Now therefore amend your ways and your deeds, and obey the voice of the LORD your God; and the LORD will change His mind about the misfortune which He has pronounced against you. 14 "But as for me, behold, I am in your hands; do with me as is good and right in your sight. 15 "Only know for certain that if you put me to death, you will bring innocent blood on yourselves, and on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

There are times when you have opportunities that
you may never have again.

Esth 4:13 Then Mordecai told them to reply to
Esther, "Do not imagine that you in the king's
palace can escape any more than all the Jews. 14
"For if you remain silent at this time, relief and
deliverance will arise for the Jews from another
place and you and your father's house will perish.
And who knows whether you have not attained
royalty for such a time as this?"

You may be in the place you are because of God's need for your services. But we must never think that we are the only ones by whom God can act.

If you knew the hour of your death, would you want to leave things undone? The really important things?

What is the order in your life as you think
about death?

Virtually everyone thinks about what happens
after death. We have movies and TV shows
about lights or tunnels or angels from those
who have gone through “near death
experiences.”

Do you really trust God’s word as to what it
will be like “over there”?

Jude 1:12 These men ... for
whom the black darkness has
been reserved forever.

Rev 21:8 their part will be in the
lake that burns with fire and
brimstone, which is the second
death."

If you really thought you might die and you had the choice between that picture of being lost eternally and the one God gives of his Saints in glory, which would you make an effort to obtain?

Rev 21:2 And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. 3 And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He shall dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself shall be among them, 4 and He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away."

Rev 21:25 And in the daytime (for there shall be no night there) its gates shall never be closed; 26 and they shall bring the glory and the honor of the nations into it; 27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it, but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

22:1 And he showed me a river of the water of life, clear as crystal, coming from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 in the middle of its street. And on either side of the river was the tree of life, bearing twelve kinds of fruit, yielding its fruit every month; and the leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. 3 And there shall no longer be any curse; and the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His bond-servants shall serve Him;

Jas 4:13-17 Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit." (14) Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. (15) Instead, you ought to say, "If the Lord wills, we will live and also do this or that." (16) But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. (17) Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do and does not do it, to him it is sin.

You don't really know the hour of your death, but
what are your priorities in life?

Most of you missed the greatest invitation ever
given by one of our members recently.

Alvin told us of walking out of his house as he
headed to work in his truck. His wife also walked
out and got in her car. Their parting words were the
last he would ever say to her. Both he and she drove
off and she died. — years of marriage and then no
more conversations.

Alvin's wife wouldn't come to church with him.
As much as he loves the Lord and does His will,
spreading the gospel at work, but his wife wouldn't
listen. None of us ever knew her and now she's
gone. She left unprepared to meet her Lord.

Lord, teach us to order our lives!

You don't know what tomorrow holds.

What a wonderful thought that we still have
time to decide.

Joh 14:15 “If you love me, you will keep my
commandments.

Mar 16:16 Whoever believes and is baptized
will be saved, but whoever does not believe
will be condemned.