What Is Your Life?

Prepared by Nathan L Morrison for Sunday November 17th, 2019

Text: James 4:13-16

### Intro

1. For the Christian, a funeral or memorial service is a reminder of the frailty of life.
   1. It reminds us that we all have an appointment with death and then judgment (Heb. 9:27).
   2. If we are mourning the passing of a faithful servant of God, our mourning and grief is mixed with joy and happiness…
      1. Why? Because we know God has promised an eternal rest for those who “die in the Lord” (Rev. 14:12-13)
2. We don’t know if we will be given another hour or tomorrow, so we live daily for Jesus!
   1. Mt. 24:36: “But of that day and hour no one knows, no, not even the angels of heaven, but My Father only.”
   2. Mt. 25:13: “Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming.” (NKJV)
3. Christians are urged to “examine” ourselves – II Cor. 13:5
   1. It is common practice for businesses to “take inventory” to see where they stand in relation to what they have done and what is planned for the business.
   2. Christians need to “take inventory” of their lives to see where they stand in relation to God’s will for the future.
4. Js. 4:13-16:
   1. NKJV Js. 4:14: “What is your life?”
   2. The answer: “It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.”
5. It’s important to “take inventory,” especially in view of the answer to “What Is Your Life?”!

#### “What Is Your Life” In Relation to ***Duration?***

* 1. Important to recognize because:
     1. Man lives but one time on earth – Heb. 9:27
     2. Man’s eternal destiny is dependent on the choices made in life – II Cor. 5:10
     3. What man plans to do in life must be done immediately – Jn. 9:4
  2. Life is brief:
     1. *Js. 4:14:* Like a vapor!
     2. *Job 14:*1: Life is short and full or turmoil (NKJV: “trouble”)
  3. This brief life is full of change (and trouble)!
  4. Self-Inventory is necessary because there’s a danger of “drifting” as long as life lasts!
     1. Heb. 2:1: We must be diligent in the things we know to be right!
     2. Gal. 1:6: The Galatians had “drifted away” to another gospel!
     3. Rom. 11:22: The goodness of God is bestowed on those who “continue in His goodness.”
     4. Rev. 3:1-2: The church at Sardis was charged to take inventory and strengthen the things that remained!
  5. The duration of man’s life is brief *(Job 14:2: Like a shadow)* so we must examine ourselves!

#### “What Is Your Life” In Relation to ***Purpose?***

* 1. The true value of life is not measured by quantity but by quality!
     1. Consider: The biography of the oldest man on record (Methuselah lived 969 years) is given in three verses (Gen. 5:25-27)!
     2. Christ lived on earth approx. 33 years, but there are 4 books of biography (the gospels) about His life and even they could not contain all He did (Jn. 21:25)!
     3. It’s not how long one lives, but what one ***does*** with the time given! (Alexander the Great had conquered the known world by the time he died at age 32!)
  2. The purpose in life for some seems to be “Eat, drink, and be merry.”
     1. The rich farmer had this philosophy of life: was called a “fool” *(Lk. 12:15-21)*
     2. If life on earth is the totality of man’s existence then this view of life makes sense, according to Paul (I Cor. 15:32).
  3. The purpose in life for some is to get as many material things as they can get!
     1. Lk. 12:15; Mt. 6:19-20; I Tim. 6:9-10: The pursuit of riches can be a snare!
     2. “He who dies with the most toys wins” – Famous bumper sticker and saying
     3. “He who dies with the most toys still dies!” – Biblical saying (Luke 12:20)
  4. What should be man’s purpose in life?
     1. Eccl. 12:13-14: “Fear God and keep His commandments.”
     2. A study of Ecclesiastes shows Solomon tried the things men try today to find a purpose in living (accumulating wealth, partying, etc.).
     3. The conclusion in Eccl. 12 is his ***studied*** conclusion!
     4. *Mt. 6:33:* Jesus said the necessities of life will be added to the one who puts God first!
     5. To “keep his commandments” we must know them! (Ps. 119:105: God’s word is lamp to our path!; II Tim. 2:15: We must study to rightly divide God’s word)
  5. Since life is brief, self-inventory is necessary to see if we continue in the same purpose!

#### “What Is Your Life” In Relation to ***Destiny?***

* 1. The issue of *destiny* is directly connected to the issue of *purpose!*
  2. God’s word clearly reveals the destiny of some people is:
     1. “Destruction” – Mt. 7:13-14
     2. “Eternal punishment” – Mt. 25:46
     3. “Eternal separation from God” – II Thess. 1:9
     4. “A lake of fire and brimstone” (“Second death”) – Rev. 21:8
  3. God’s word also clearly reveals the destiny of some people is:
     1. “Life” – Mt. 7:13-14
     2. “Eternal life” & “rest” – Rom. 6:23; Rev. 14:13
     3. “Immortality with glory and honor” – Rom. 2:7
     4. “New Jerusalem” (“Heaven” – I Pet. 1:4) – Rev. 21:1-7
  4. The direction (purpose) of life determines the destiny *(Mt. 7:13-14: Two roads of life)!*
  5. While life on earth is brief, man’s destiny is eternal, so self-inventory is important to make sure we are on the right road!

## Conclusion

1. An “Inventory” of a business is only beneficial if the picture is accurate of where they stand.
   1. “Inventory” often reveals weaknesses, and if the company is honest they will use their findings to fix the problem areas, not just cover them up.
2. Christians need not only “take inventory” but be honest to see what God sees (Heb. 4:12-13).
   1. A good self-examination will reveal some areas where we simply need “to do better,” some tendencies that may be undesirable, but not sinful.
   2. The thing that keeps one from a good self-examination is to ***only*** see those things!
   3. If we find areas of our life that are sinful, self-examination does little good unless we are honest enough with ourselves and God to repent! *(I Jn. 1:9-10; II Sam. 12:13)*
   4. If not honest with ourselves, the Scriptures will not be profitable for reproof and correction if we don’t use them for that end! – Prov. 22:3; *II Tim. 3:16-17*
3. All people are confronted with the question, “What is your life?”
   1. We need to answer with our duration, purpose, and destiny in mind – Be prepared!
4. The purpose and the destiny of life are decided in a few vapor years! *(James 4:14;* *Eph. 5:16; Col. 4:5: Make the most of the time, make the most of the opportunity because the days are evil)*
5. Despite all that we may accomplish in life, what truly matters is we are remembered as a faithful servant of God and follower of Jesus! *(John 12:26)*
6. We should use our brief ***duration***to ensure we are living up to our ***purpose*** so we may confidently face the future of an eternal ***destiny!***
7. If you are not a Christian, you need to be. Repent and be baptized (obey the gospel) to ensure your eternal destiny!
8. If a Christian in error, don’t wait till it’s eternally too late. Repent and be prepared for the eternal rest God has prepared for the faithful! *(II Tim. 4:6-8)*
9. Whatever your requests, let them be made known ***NOW*** while we stand & sing!