

My Last Day On Earth ...Sept 30 2012

We don't know when but we know it is coming...

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined **to die once**, and after that to face judgment

“Everybody knows they’re going to die, but nobody believes it. If we did, we would do things differently,’ Morrie said. ‘So we kid ourselves about death,’ I (Mitch) said. ‘Yes, but there’s a better approach. To know you’re going to die and be prepared for it at any time. That’s better. That way you can be actually be more involved in your life while you’re living. . . Every day, have a little bird on your shoulder that asks, ‘Is today the day? Am I ready? Am I doing all I need to do? Am I being the person I want to be?... The truth is, Mitch, once you learn how to die, you learn how to live... Most of us walk around as if we’re sleepwalking. We really don’t experience the world fully because we’re half asleep, doing things we automatically think we have to do... Learn how to die, and you learn how to live.”—Tuesdays with Morrie

So What is My life?

James 4:13-17 Now listen, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money." 14 Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. **What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.** 15 Instead, you ought to say, "**If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that.**" 16 As it is, you boast and brag. All such boasting is evil. 17 Anyone, then, **who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.**

A Mist?

- The point is not that our lives are insignificant... **but that they are short**
14 What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes.

Psa 103:15-16 The life of mortals is like grass, they flourish like a flower of the field; the wind blows over it and it is gone, and its place remembers it no more.

- ...and the brevity of our life urges us to consider, “How am I going to spend it?”
Self Directed - vs 13 **“We will go to this or that city...etc”**
The Will of God - vs 15 **“If it is the Lord’s will, we will...etc”**

Why He urges us away from a self directed life

1. vs 14 We do not know what will happen tomorrow- better to trust Him who knows

Isa 46:8-10 "Remember this, keep it in mind, take it to heart, you rebels. Remember the former things, those of long ago; I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like me. **I make known the end from the beginning, from ancient times, what is still to come.** I say, 'My purpose will stand, and I will do all that I please.'

2. vs 16 It is boasting and bragging - better to have Him on our side

Pro 27:1 Do not boast about tomorrow, for you do not know what a day may bring.

Pro 16:5 The LORD detests all the proud of heart.

Help With Living Surrendered to the Will of God

- Vs 15 "If it is the Lord's will we will live and do this or that"

Knowing God has had a plan for my life - even before I was born

Jer 1:5 "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, before you were born I set you apart; I appointed you as a prophet to the nations."

Eph 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

Knowing that God determines the length of my life - so live it well

Ps 139:13-16 For you created my inmost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. 14 I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well. 15 My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, 16 your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be.

Knowing at the end of life is judgment and accountability to the Lord

Heb 9:27 Just as man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,

Heb 4:13 Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight. Everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.

Mat 12:36 But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.

Rom 14:10-12 For we will all stand before God's judgment seat. It is written: "'As surely as I live,' says the Lord, 'every knee will bow before me; every tongue will acknowledge God.'" So then, each of us will give an account of ourselves to God.

2Co 5:10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, **whether good or bad.**

Mat 25:21 "His master replied, 'Well done, **good and faithful servant!** You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!'

We need wisdom for this life

Ps 90: 12 Teach us to number our days aright, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.

Ps 90:12 So teach us to consider our mortality, so that we might live wisely.

Ps 90:12 Teach us to realize the brevity of life, so that we may grow in wisdom.

Ecc 7:2 (b)... for death is the destiny of every man; the living should take this to heart.

Ps 39:4-5 "Show me, O Lord, my life's end and the number of my days; let me know how fleeting is my life. 5 You have made my days a mere handbreadth; the span of my years is as nothing before you. Each man's life is but a breath.

Words from a man whose time is short

2Ti 4:6-7 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

- These are also great encouragements for us - to fight and keep running the race

Practical Help Beginning Now - Do It Today

James 4:17 Anyone, then, **who knows the good he ought to do and doesn't do it, sins.**

Take time to see and do the good that is right in front of you every day. It is almost as if he is re-focusing our lives from to pay attention to the things that are right in front of us.

Jesus said “don't worry about tomorrow for tomorrow will take care of itself”

My challenge is - don't put off till tomorrow the good you can do today.

Don't pass up the nudges to goodness - sometimes they are the leading of the Lord

- If you need to forgive someone - do it today
- If you need to tell your children how much you love them - do it today
- If you need to surrender to Christ - do it today
- Today is the day of salvation

When you are prepared to die, you are truly prepared to live.

Sometimes we miss the blessing of the here and now...Each day provides opportunities to do the good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.

If we truly lived with that little bird on our shoulder asking us if we are ready to die today, we would bond so strongly with every event in our lives. We would appreciate every sunset, every walk around the block, every phone call from our parents, every conversation with our friends, every culinary delight, and so on. Each instant of life would be laced with urgency and passion. We would remind ourselves of the significance that every human experience can yield. We would pinch ourselves regularly as a reminder to appreciate the moment. We would make all days and events meaningful and memorable—even the so called monotonous ones.

Only God knows how long we have to live - live it well...yearn to hear those words from our Lord. “well done, good and faithful servant”