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Set Thine House In Order

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There are few things that bring the heart more sorrow than the loss of a loved one. The Bible does not have to tell us that our years shall one day come to an end, but it does. The Hebrew writer clearly states that “it is appointed unto men once to die...” (Heb 9:27). Knowing very well that there will come a day when our physical bodies will return to the earth from which they were originally fashioned and our spirit shall return to God who gave it (Eccl 12:7), shouldn't we prepare for that day?

Often, one will be diagnosed with a terrible disease or ailment that will cut short their lives. What appears to be a tragedy to some appears to others as a blessing of time - time to set one's house in order. In the book of Isaiah chapter thirty-eight, the king Hezekiah was “sick unto death.” God told him through the prophet Isaiah to “set thine house in order: for thou shalt die and not live” (Isa 38:1). Having many family members pass from this life, this writer has seen where things were neglected and lives were burdened because of the fact that the deceased did not have their house in order. Having our house in order prior to our death can and should be seen in a physical as well as a spiritual way.

Physically, there are many things that, as responsible people, we ought to have done prior to our departure from this life. There are many things that our families should not have to deal with at the point of our death, such as the care and well-being of our children or family, funeral expenses, and perhaps medical costs. Preparation must be made so that our death may not be a burden on others because we failed to set in order the things that were well within our control to do. Why is it that so many will travel through life living in extravagant ways, seeking out and partaking in the many pleasures the world has to offer, while failing in this most important area? Our Lord spoke of one who believed that he was all set for some time to come. Life was good and things were going well. Then one night, “God said to him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee” (Lk 12:20). We ought to make the proper preparations for our death while we have today. Our days may or may not be long (Jas 4:14).

Spiritually, there are also many things we ought to do as we wait for that promised day. Knowing that we all shall one day stand before the judge (Mt 25:31ff; Acts 17:30; 2 Cor 5:10), it should be the priority of all to be sure that spiritually we are right with God. Spiritually there are things we ought to be concerned with while we have time. We all are aware that death is not a respecter of persons. Death does not come to the sick, aged, and wicked more than it does the healthy, young, and most loving. Because of this truth, there is an urgency for us to be sure that spiritually God is pleased with us so that we can live with Him for ever and ever when we leave the physical. As parents, we must prepare our children for a life of service and dedication to the truth of God's word. Fathers, we are commanded of the Lord to "bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph 6:4), teaching them His ways so that they will also set their own homes in order. Each living soul is accountable for themselves. Therefore, each of us must study God's word to show ourselves approved unto Him and be not ashamed (2 Tim 3:15), obeying the Gospel by hearing it (Rom 10:17), believing in Jesus (Jn 8:24), turning from sin (Lk 13:3), confessing Jesus as Lord (Mt 10:32-33), being baptized for the forgiveness of sin (Acts 2:38), and living a godly life (1 Cor 15:58).

Let us be sure that our physical as well as our spiritual houses are in order. God has provided the way for man to set and keep our houses in order. God desires for all to be saved (1 Tim 2:4; 2 Pet 3:9), and has given His only Son to save us (Jn 3:16; Rom 5:8). God's word is our only blueprint to follow (Rom 6:17) to guide us to Heaven.

Is your house in order?

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