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## The King is Coming! Are You Ready!

If you knew for sure that you only had 24 hours to live, would you do anything different with your time? If you are a student, would you still go to class? If you are an employee, would you still go to work? The vast majority of us would probably spend our remaining hours with those people and doing those things that we hold dear ... that we value!

But the truth is we don't know for sure that we even have 24 hours to live, much less 24 minutes! Yet we live as though we have all the time in the world! Well ... we don't, because the Bible teaches us one thing that we *can* be sure of, and it is this, that ...

***“... it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”***

Hebrews 9:27 (KJV)

Every person can be certain that they *will* die, and worse, that they will have to stand before a Holy God who will judge ***everything*** they have done, down to their very words spoken in secret. Knowing this, ***“How then should we live?”*** so that we may be **READY** when that moment arrives? Read the sections below that apply to you to find out!

### Non-Christian

Contrary to what many believe, there *is* life after death! Your soul will continue into eternity ... so the question is ‘Where will you spend that eternity?’ Jesus taught that the Righteous will spend eternity with God, His Father, in His Heavenly Home while the Sinful will spend eternity apart from Him in Eternal Punishment. But the problem is we are ALL Sinful from birth!

***“Surely I was sinful at birth, sinful from the time my mother conceived me.”***

(Psalm 51:5 NIV)

If you question this truth, may I ask, ‘Have you ***always*** treated others as you would want to be treated?’ Or similarly, ‘Have you ever ***failed*** to do to others what you knew you ***should have?***’ If we are honest, we would answer ‘**No**’ to the first and ‘**Yes**’ to the second. If you still cannot admit your imperfection, simply ask your wife, or your husband, or your children, or your parents, and *they will be glad to set the record straight!* We are ***not*** perfect, not even close, and that imperfection, that shortcoming, that *sinfulness* is what will keep us out of a place reserved only for the Righteous. So then, how can we ever attain the Righteousness needed? Well ... we can't. It's too late for us to correct our errors! There is no hope in our ever attaining ***on our own*** the Righteousness needed to enter God's Perfect Heaven.

***“For whoever keeps the whole law and yet stumbles at just one point is guilty of breaking all of it.”***

(James 2:10)

**So is it completely hopeless?** Are we *destined* for eternal punishment? The **Good News** is ***‘Absolutely Not!’*** God has made a way for us to attain the Righteousness needed to enter Heaven, and that Way is through His Son, **Jesus Christ!** How did God do this? By the greatest **Transfer** ever completed in the Universe!

***But God demonstrates His own love for us in this:  
While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”***

Romans 5:8 NIV

***“God made Him (Jesus) who had no sin to be sin for us,  
so that in Him we might become the Righteousness of God.”***

2 Corinthians 5:21 NIV

***“Christ is the end of the law  
so that there may be righteousness for everyone who believes.”***

Romans 10:4 NIV

**Did you understand what God did?** He transferred ***all*** of our Sins unto His Perfectly Righteous Son Who then paid the penalty for Sin by dying and shedding His blood on the cross for us, but then ***Transferred*** His Son’s Righteousness unto us ***who believe!*** What does this mean? It means that we can enter Heaven, a place reserved for only the Righteous, by ***believing*** that Jesus took *our* sins upon Himself, died in *our* place for *our* sins, and transferred *His Righteous* to us!

If you had only 24 hours to live, would you be ***Ready*** to be judged by a Holy God? If not, ***you would like to be wouldn’t you?*** Use this prayer to express your faith in God’s Son, Jesus Christ, in order that you may receive His Righteousness for yourself as well!

***“ Dear Heavenly Father, I know that I am a sinner and cannot enter Your Heaven should I die. But today, right now, I believe that Jesus died in my place for my sins, that His blood wipes away forever my sins and that You have transferred His Perfect Righteousness to me. I believe You have forgiven me in Christ Jesus, and that should I die, I will enter Your presence through Christ Who died for me. Thank-You Heavenly Father. In Jesus’ Name, Amen!”***

If you prayed that prayer sincerely, *believing* what you prayed to God, you are now **READY!** Death is only the open door to your Heavenly home where you will live eternally with our Heavenly Father!

Continue on to read what Christians need to do to be READY for the King’s Return!

## The Christian

As Christians who believe that Jesus Christ died for our sins and made us Righteous in Him, **“How then shall we live?”** Do we just kick back and relax and enjoy life waiting for death to usher us into our new Heavenly Home? **Absolutely not!** Don't you know that though there is reserved for us an eternity living with our Heavenly Father, that He now requires us to live for Him in this life? **He gave us His Holy Spirit** the moment we believed His Good News, and through His Spirit we have been **‘born again’** as spiritual children of God. One of the marks of true children of God is their desire to please Him in everything they do. Only a true child of God can say with sincerity, **‘Yes, I want to please God and glorify Him with my life!’** and that is primarily what He asks of us ... what He has already given us the *desire* and *ability* to do by His Spirit!

*Now don't get me wrong.* I am *not* saying we cannot enter God's Heaven *unless* we please and glorify Him with our lives. *Entrance into Heaven is by God's Grace and Faith in Christ alone!* But the Faith that grants us entrance into Heaven is Faith that results in a Love for God and a desire to please Him in all we do! *Do you understand what I am saying?* It is easy to say, *‘Yes, I believe’* but a completely different thing to say, *‘Yes, I believe, and I'll show you I believe by how I live!’* That's the kind of Faith God has placed in the hearts of His children. So what should we do?

### 1. ‘Love the Lord Your God with all our heart and with all your soul and with all our mind.’ Matthew 22:37

Did you notice the word *‘all’*? When you love God with ALL your heart, soul and mind, there can be no place left for anything else, can there? God must become our **everything!** But is He? Or do we love other things or persons besides, above or before the Lord? Now I'm not saying we cannot love other people ... which will be addressed in the next section, but that love must always be in accordance with our love for God, not apart from it. Is God number One in our lives? Have we given Him *preeminence* in *all* we love, in *all* we believe and in *all* we do? That's our primary task, the main thing we must do. And as someone wisely said, **‘The main thing is to keep the main thing the main thing!’** Simple, huh? But not always easy. It takes constant vigilance, for **our enemies: the devil**, the *‘Vanity Fair’* of **this world** and **our sinful desires** wage war against us and always seek to replace God as the object of our Love. We must be ever vigilant and persevere to Love our God **foremost** and **to the utmost!**

### 2. ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ Matthew 22:39

Another way of expressing this is by the **Golden Rule**, **‘Do to others what you would have them do to you.’** We know how we want to be treated, don't we? *Then treat others in that same manner!* So easy, and yet so difficult, for there still lies within .. **selfishness**, but if you are God's Child, there is also within the **God given passion to do good** to everyone. **Identify that desire within you** and allow it to live through you so that your *‘neighbor’* and *‘others’* will say of you, **‘Now there goes a ‘loving’ person!’**

Now let's see how this applies to our lives:

**Fathers ... love your children's mother!** There is no better way to communicate your love for your children by loving their mother! *Serve her, protect her and provide for her.* Be **faithful** to her and to your family. It is so easy to love our jobs, our hobbies, our ambitions, even ourselves above our wives and families. We must resist that temptation, for the family is God's primary place where Faith in Him is nurtured! **Your children need to see your Faith in God, and your Love for Him above all else,** for Christianity is **caught ... not taught!** Be *on fire* for God and *infected* with His Love so that it spreads to every member of your household! That's the kind of fathers we need today to turn back the tide of immorality and ungodliness. **Commit yourself to be that Man ... that father ... who loves his family as God intends, and who encourages his children to be and do all that God desires for them! Then you will be READY when the King comes!**

**Mothers ... love your children's father!** Respect him and encourage him to be the husband and father God intended. There is no better way to teach your children to respect and love their father! Support him in prayer and with your love. Be the woman that your husband will want to love and serve, and the mother that your children will want to obey ... kind, Godly and wise. Be faithful to your family and provide for their needs and **you will not only be praised, but READY for the King's appearing!**

**Children ... honor and respect your parents!** Acknowledge their *authority* and trust their *judgment*. Their experience gives them wisdom ... not only knowing in what to do, but also in what **not** to do. **They have learned from their mistakes so that you do not have to!** If you do these things, God will bless you and prosper you, and make you wise ... and **READY to see Jesus!**

**Pastor ... return to God's purpose for you!** God did not call you to be a spiritual 'babysitter' or a building fix-it man or the only one in the church who knows how to lead someone to Christ. Read again God's job description for you.

*"It was He who gave some to be apostles, some to be prophets,  
some to be evangelists, and some to be pastors and teachers,  
to prepare God's people for works of service,  
so that the body of Christ may be built up ..."*

Ephesians 4:11-12

Did you see it? Your primary task! The reason God called you! It is **'to prepare God's people'** for ministry! You're an *equipper ... a trainer ...* the one who *prepares* all the members to do the work of the ministry, so that instead of having only one minister in the church, there are scores or hundreds. Can you see what the *church* would become if every

member is *sharing* their faith, *building up* those who come to Christ and *multiplying* themselves through others? Be prepared to find a larger meeting room!

## Church Members

1. ... ***Win the World to Christ!*** The Church is a living entity ... the Body of Christ! And the head of the Body is Jesus who expects every member to be involved in bringing others to Christ and building them up in Christ! Those are His marching orders to us and they have not been rescinded! Only if every member takes an active part will we ever be able to fulfill our Lord's final command for us to ...

***“go and make disciples of all nations!”***

Matthew 28:19a NIV

If you are not involved in sharing Christ with others ... in helping Christians grow in their faith ... in multiplying your life through others ... then become involved! I promise you that when you look back from Heaven a hundred years from now, you will realize there was nothing in your life ***more important, more fulfilling, more impactful than helping to reach this world for Christ!***

2. ... ***Reject the World for Christ!*** The Gallup Poll revealed that ***‘never before in America had the Gospel of Christ made such inroads while at the same time making so little difference in the way people lived.’*** The biggest criticism leveled at Christians is that they are *hypocrites* ... claiming to *love* Jesus but still loving the things of the world, and living lives that cannot be distinguished from those of non-Christians. Don't *just ‘talk the talk’*, but *‘walk the walk’!* So if you are not going to *‘walk the walk’*, then don't *‘talk the talk’* and bring shame to the Name of our Lord!

***Remember ...***

***‘Only One Life Will Soon be Past,  
‘Only What’s Done for Christ will Last!’***