

A BETTER LIFE

I. I need to properly understand the value of my soul.

- A. We understand the need to value our houses and other possessions.
 - 1. We don't ever want them undervalued.
 - 2. We know we would lose money if they were.
- B. We need to remember that we are in possession of something far more valuable than any physical possession: our souls.
 - 1. Matthew 16:26.
 - 2. All of the goods of this life added up together could in no way equal the value of our soul.
- C. If a person were able to own every last bit of property and wealth this world has to offer, he couldn't come up with a down payment for his soul.
- D. If we would view it this way, we would be far more careful what we do to our soul.
 - 1. We wouldn't allow it to remain stained with sin would we.
 - 2. Some people have allowed precious art or other objects to gather dust, not knowing what they possess.
 - 3. Most people, however, have those precious objects on display where everyone can see them.
 - 4. They are proud of them.
 - 5. Each individual has a soul of which they should be extremely protective and proud.
 - 6. It is that part of us that allows us to say we are made in the image of God.
- E. The proper estimation of the soul will help each of us begin to lead better lives.

II. I must daily be aware I will appear before the judgment seat of Christ.

- A. We each have appointments each week.
 - 1. We know we have appointments with God every first day of the week and every Wednesday evening.
 - 2. We may have appointments with clients or doctors.
 - 3. We live by the watch and calendar.
- B. We all have an appointment with death (Hebrews 9:26).
 - 1. This is an appointment we try not to think about very often.
 - 2. However, it is looming for all of us.
 - 3. We don't think about it often because we don't know the date of it.
 - 4. Since we don't know the date, we try to shove it to the back recesses of our minds where it only comes out in our dark moments.
- C. This verse also tells us that we have an appointment with judgment.
- D. 2 Corinthians 5:10.
 - 1. At the judgment, all of our actions will be taken into account.
 - 2. We will also be judged based on our words (Matthew 12:36-37).
 - 3. Also, our thoughts will be taken into consideration (Ecclesiastes 12:14).

- E. We need to take this out of the dark recesses of our minds and remind ourselves of this fact daily.
 - 1. If I can push it away, I can do what I want.
 - 2. If it is ever before me, it is a motivator to self-discipline.

III. I will live each day as if it is my last.

- A. We are not promised a certain amount of days.
 - 1. Cemeteries are full of tombstones that show this as a fact.
 - 2. There are dates that show people living one day, one month, one year to well over one hundred years.
 - 3. This shows us the uncertainty of life.
- B. What is ironic is, that as tough as our bodies are, they are very fragile and it doesn't take much for death to occur.
- C. Long ago Job said...(Job 14:1).
 - 1. Job understood the brevity of life.
 - 2. He understood the fragile nature of it.
- D. James wrote...(James 4:13-14).
 - 1. How long does the morning mist last?
 - 2. How long does the steam from a boiling pot last?
 - 3. Our lives, in comparison to eternity, are like that mist or that steam.
- E. The idea of death and the promise of the Lord's return are real.
- F. We can rest assured of His promises because He cannot lie (Titus 1:2).
- G. How would we live if we knew we would not wake up tomorrow?
 - 1. Would we rejoice knowing we would be united with the Lord and those who have gone one that we love?
 - 2. Would we repent knowing that we would be lost for all eternity?
 - 3. Would we obey the gospel that we have been putting off doing for one reason or another?
- H. We aren't promised tomorrow so we must do what is right today.

IV. I need to realize my soul will spend eternity in heaven or hell.

- A. John 5:28-29.
- B. Matthew 25:46.
- C. Heaven is the reward for those who seek it.
 - 1. We read about those who have sought it in the past.
 - 2. Hebrews 11:13-14.
- D. We won't stumble into heaven by accident.
- E. Other than the knowledge of the sacrifice Jesus made for us, heaven is the greatest motivating factor for the Christian.
 - 1. We talked a few weeks ago of the splendor and beauty of heaven.
 - 2. It is a place of beauty indescribable where there is no death or pain.
 - 3. That is motivating if we reflect on it.
- F. On the other hand, hell itself is a great motivator.
 - 1. We discussed it prior to discussing heaven.
 - 2. It is a horrid place, filled with the worst sort of people and punishment.

G. Our souls will go to one of those two places.

From an outline by Leroy Brownlow