

No Regrets At The End Of This Life

A Sermon Delivered on Wednesday evening, April 6th, 2020, by
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Life is full of many different pursuits and possible achievements, but as followers of Christ, how do we live our lives to reach our full potential so that, in the end, we will have no regrets? All of us have done things in our lives we wish we could do over. It may be an action that hurt us or someone else, a bad financial decision or relationship, or maybe some words we wish we could take back. All too often our lives are held captive by the actions or experiences that we regret. But the great news is that there's hope for moving past our regrets. We must learn to let go of past mistakes, lost opportunities, and failed expectations to live richly in a present filled with hope of new possibilities. Maximising every day is key. Be encouraged to look at life now with the end in view in this message.

Don't waste your life. Live your life consciously and be aware that each moment you breathe is a gift. We must leave a legacy and fruit behind and impact our generation so that when our time to pass from this life to the next life comes, we don't have any regrets on how we lived. We can live our lives to the full, being proud of the life that we lived, and happy with the life that we lived. Regardless of who you are, it's imperative that make sure that living with regret hasn't become a subtle part of your life and how you do what you do.

The Bible says in Isa. 38:1-5 that, *in those days Hezekiah became ill and was at the point of death. The prophet Isaiah son of Amoz went to him and said, "This is what the LORD says: Put your house in order, because you are going to die; you will not recover."* ² *Hezekiah turned his face to the wall and prayed to the LORD,* ³ *"Remember, LORD, how I have walked before you faithfully and with wholehearted devotion and have done what is good in your eyes."* *And Hezekiah wept bitterly.* ⁴ *Then the word of the LORD came to Isaiah:* ⁵ *"Go and tell Hezekiah, 'This is what the LORD, the God of your father David, says: I have heard your prayer and seen your tears; I will add fifteen years to your life."*

So, here's the thing nobody wants to hear. Set your house in order, for the reality is that we are all going to die one day. It's not a question of if we're going to die or when we're going to die. The appointed time to the end of this life can be unexpected, it can be the most unlikely time. Throughout history, death has become well known for turning up in unexpected time. It's the most challenging time of this life for us. The question is, what have you done with your life? What are you doing with your life? Is your life a blessing to your generation? Hezekiah reminds me of myself, and he reminds me of so many people because when it came to the time to set his house in order, what did he pray for? He prayed for more time. When Hezekiah was about to set his house in order, the only thing on his heart was 'I wish I had more time,' and so God gave him more time because God is gracious.

God gave him 15 more years, but I just want us to be able to meet our end, being transferred from this life to the next life, without wishing we have more time. So, if there's something that we need to do, we should do it today. The word that is dear to the heart of God is the word "today", but Satan's favourite word of all words is the word "tomorrow." Today is one of the greatest gifts God has given to mankind. *"We then, as workers together with Him also plead with you not to receive the grace of God in vain."* ² *For He says: "In an acceptable time I have heard you, and in the day of salvation I have helped you."* *Behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation"* (2 Cor. 6:2).

Today don't harden your heart while you hear His voice. Today is the day of salvation, tomorrow is not the day, yesterday wasn't the day, but today. Tomorrow can be a dangerous word, for tomorrow has robbed many dreamers of their dreams. It has robbed students of educational achievement and career opportunities. It has kept more men and women from coming to Christ than any other word in the dictionary. Let me remind you that tomorrow will rob you of opportunities to serve the Almighty God. What's the first thing that a man needs to fulfill his God given purpose? What's the first thing that a man needs to live the abundant life that God created us for? It's a day, it's today. As simple as that sounds, every day is a gift, and it's so

precious. God gave us structure, He gave us a day, He gave us weeks, months, and years. He gave us seasons. They all begin with a day, and that could be today. This is God's provision for our purpose and so the first thing that a man needs to fulfill his purpose is a day.

The day God put something on the heart is the day you should start moving in that direction. I'm talking about when the Holy Spirit has put something on your heart. He's trying to lead, guide, and direct your life, but we do nothing. Now, if there's one thing that's going to be responsible for change in our lives, it's when we take immediate action to do the thing that God has revealed to us to do, or to do the thing that we know we need to do. I don't know about you, but there are things that God makes known to you and you just don't take action. Weeks go by and you don't do it, and I can't help but wonder what if you would have applied immediate action to the things you knew you must do? We must be intentional about how we use our time because at the end of life, you wouldn't want to look back and say, I wish I would have used that day this way or I wish I would have used this year that way. I personally want to look back at my life and say though it was hard sometimes, and there were a lot of things that tried to take me off the path, I stayed true to the path and used every day purposefully and intentionally. I personally want to look back at my life at the end and point to a body of work that I can offer in contribution, knowing that I've impacted my generation and I've helped people. All this can't be done until I start with today.

If you think about it, if you waste a day, waste a week, waste a month, and waste a year, then you'll waste your life. But if you maximise a day, maximise a week, maximise a month, and maximise a year, then you'll maximise your life. So, it starts with a day, or the journey to a thousand miles begins with one step, and you cannot despise the small or simple things. Sometimes, it's something so simple as forgiving someone, or something so simple as giving a gift to someone. It can be giving an offering to God, or simply praising God when you don't feel like it. It can also be something so simple as just being obedient to the small things that the Spirit of God is leading you to do and the things you know you must do. It's the little foxes that spoil the vine, and so we may think I'll do it tomorrow, or next week, or even next month and before you know it, you've wasted months or even a whole year without taking action. You see, whenever God put something on our heart, it's that very day that you should start working towards it. Don't worry if the progress is slow. Forget about what you haven't been able to do up until now and just be willing to cooperate with the Holy Spirit as He leads and guides you.

A day is extremely important because you become what you do every day. Your life takes on the shape of what you do every day and so your future is never going to be what you want it to be unless you start with today. Your future is never going to be what God has put into your heart unless you start moving in that direction today. As you continue to move in that direction every day, you will eventually get to that place you envisioned. Ps 118:24 says, "*this is the day that the lord has made and so we will rejoice and be glad in it.*" Every day is perfect, and every day comes with opportunities. It cannot be improved; it's perfect the way it is. You can't change it because it's perfect. We will have to rely on every day to accomplish our goals.

You need to structure your day according to what God has put on your heart so that you can govern your day and take control of your day and live your day the way God wants you to live it. Determine not to live your day in fear. Make it a point not to live your day being anxious, and worrying about tomorrow. "*This is the day which the LORD has made.*" A new opportunity has appeared. It's a new day that the Lord has made for mankind. It's a perfect day. It's a blessed day to rejoice and be glad in it. A day made and ordained by God for us to achieve our purposes in life. Every day you wake up, remember that it's a perfect day the Lord has made for you to do great things to glorify His Holy name. "*We will rejoice and be glad in it.*" What else can we do? I'm not going to live my day intimidated, I'm not going to live my day cowardly, I'm going to live my day boldly and I'm going to live it with courage and purpose.

Christ is the only saviour of the world. Have you received Him? If you will, please pray this prayer after me, saying every word from your heart...

Dear Lord, I recognise that I am a sinner and need to be saved.

**I understand that Jesus died in my place and suffered the judgment of all of my sins.
I believe that Jesus rose from the dead and He is at the right hand of the father.
Lord Jesus, I surrender my Life to you.
Come and Live in my heart and be my Lord and saviour.
Thank You for saving me. Amen!**