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# WHAT IS YOUR LIFE ?

JAMES 4:13-17 pg 1287

I. A.) James 4:14 whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.

1.) We don't know what is going to happen one minute from now, tomorrow could be an eternity away.

2.) Our life could end at anytime and we will not be prepared for it.

3.) Just like the steam rising off of a tea kettle it seems to just disappear, our life is here for just a little while and then is gone.

B.) John 8:32 And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free; NOT MAN'S WORD, BUT THE WORD OF GOD.

1.) Truth here is refering to the gospel, and it is this gospel that will save you.

C.) Rom 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.

1.) Again the gospel is the power that is going to save us; IF WE JUST ACCEPT IT.

2.) It seems that one of the biggest duties that a preacher has is causing people to realize that they are lost.

D.) Remember what Paul told the Galations?

1.) Gal 4:16 am I therefore become your enemy, because I tell you the truth?

a.) Some people do not like to be told the truth.

SAYING b.) The truth hurts.

2.) There are two ways that we can go - the broad way or the narrow way.

a.) mt 7:13-14 pg 1020

b.) which way are you going?

3.) Paul warns us in

a) Eph 4:14-15 That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up into him in all things, which is the head, even Christ:

1.) If we are not careful we will be led down the wrong road.

IN THE WORLD TODAY 2.) There are some people that can sell you anything - all to often these people are preachers.

E) It is interesting to study the lives of great men - like Washington and Lincoln.

THE POET 1.) Longfellow said, "Lives of great men all remind us we can make our lives sublime."

2.) Biographies, Who is Who and encyclopedias are synopsis of lives. (General view).

II. A) Now the question - What is your life?

1.) Ps 90:10 tells us - The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

a.) Our life here is so short, so we must work while we can.

B.) The Brevity of Life. (Brief)

1.) Job 7:6 has this to say - "My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope."

a.) How fast is that?

1.) It is so fast you can hardly see the shuttle going back and forth.

2.) Job 14:1 says - "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of trouble."

a.) Remember how the steam rising from the tea kettle disappears.

b.) Man exists for a short time then is gone.

3.) At the end of your life, what then?

a.) II Cor 5:10-11 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may recieve the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

b.) Knowing the wrath of God, we need to persude men - not just ~~to~~ try to - now before it is too late. Even though they do not want to hear it.

2.) They are here for only a short time, and so are we.

b.) When you take a live branch and cut it off a tree, it will eventually die.

b) Likewise, life when seperated from the "tree of life" it will also die.

c) So we not only must try, we have to persuade men to become a part of that "Tree of Life".

c) Remember in James 4:14 where he refered to life as a vapour?

1.) Think about standing on a hill and looking ~~across~~ a valley at a small cliff.

a.) On some mornings a fog would obscure the bluff.

b.) as the sun comes out the fog will burn off and then you can see the bluff again.

2.) That is the way of life here; a few short years and then we are gone.

3.) We can refere to the fog as our lack of knowledge, and as it burns off we ~~can~~ can see more clearly what God wants us to do.

D.) As we get older, we appreciate the rapidy of life.

1.) The mile posts of our lives pass swiftly.

2.) Then it will be only a short time until we all stand in judgment before God.

a.) Heb 9:27 And it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgement.

1.) Do we believe for one minute anyone will escape?

2.) If we do, then we are ~~just~~ kidding ourselves.

E.) Let us think for a moment.

1.) I Cor 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

a.) We don't ~~have~~ have to die spiritually. We can live a new life in Christ.

1.) Rom 6:3-4 pg 1196

a.) Here we see that we not only are baptized into Christ but also into a new life.

2.) This life is very short yet very valuable.

Jesus says in a.) Matt 16:26 For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?

1.) all the riches in the world will not get you into heaven.

also in b.) Gal 6:7 Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

1.) Then our life here is the seed time of eternity. Plant a seed and watch it grow.

a.) This life we have is the preperation time for heaven.

2.) Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people.

3.) This life we have now is just a place to try us to see if we are fit to live in heaven.

3.) What would the earth be without life?

a.) God made life and he can take it away.

b) again we ~~not~~ must emphasize, the way we ~~to~~ live here will determine where we will ~~be~~ spend eternity.

F.) In Luke 16:19 There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day:

1.) The story of the rich man and Lazarus.

2.) Here was a man that the only thing that seemed wrong was his neglect.

a.) Neglecting to put his spiritual house in order.

b.) By not hearing what Moses & the prophets had to say condemned him to hell.

c.) Likewise, we also will be condemned if we do not listen to Christ and God.

3.) James 4:17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.

a.) 55 ~~mil~~ mile and hour speed limit.

b.) When you knowingly do something wrong, then it is sin; or even when you don't do something right.

c.) See an accident, etc.

4.) I am sure that more of the brethren sin the sin of omission rather ~~than~~ than the act of commission.

a.) Remember the rich man and all his riches in Luke 16.

Well we read in 1.) Mt 6:19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and ~~x~~ where thieves break through and steal.

a.) How much of the rich man's riches did he take with him when he died?

III. Life's Three Phases

1.) What is your life retrospectively? (looking back on)

2.) What has your life been?

3.) Are you satisfied with it?

A.) I am not. I wish I had done more for the Lord.

1.) We need to take an inventory of what we are suppose to do here, and then check off what we have done.

a.) Has your life up to this point in time been wasted? Only you and God know.

2.) Now let us look at our past life.

a.) Have we kept our sacred ~~vows~~ vows to our wife or husband?

b.) Do we show our love to our parents and likewise to our children?

c.) what about our vows to Christ?

1.) I Pet 3:15 But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear.

a.) Are we ready to give someone an answer to their questions?

b.) Are we "married" to Christ, or are we just having a short "fling" with Him?

B.) what is your life?

1.) Think about it for a second.

a.) what are we now?

b.) Are we what we pretend to be? ARE WE PRETENDING TO BE CHRISTIANS?

c.) Are we big enough to face ourselves in the looking glass of God's word?

2.) James 1:21-27 pg 1284

a.) When you are attending a meeting and for a short time afterwards you feel strong spiritually.

b.) As time passes you become weaker.

3.) Are you honest and truthful? IN BUSINESS + WORK?

a.) you say "yes", but have you obeyed the Gospel?

b.) Matt 19:16-22 pg 1036

1.) what if we haven't obeyed the Gospel?

2.) all too soon we will hear, Today is the day of salvation. are we ready for that?

4.) What is our life prospectively?

a.) What is our hope for the future?

1.) are our retirement needs met?

b.) Do we place our hope on money, fame or worldly pleasure?

1) I Tim 6:17 Charge them that are rich in this world, that they be not high minded, nor trust in uncertain riches, but in the living God, who giveth us richly all things to enjoy;

a) Don't put you trust in riches that you don't have.

1) Don't go out and spend all of that prize money you haven't won yet.

b) Put our trust in God.

5) We need to humble ourselves to God.

a) Paul at the close of his life did.

1) Phil 1:21-24 pg 1246

b) what did he mean?

1) For him to live was to win lives for Christ, but to die was personally better for him.

b) He said it was far better on the other side.

i) Even in the best of times here nothing can compare to our life in heaven.

c) How have we proposed to live in the future?

1) what is your life?

2) are we going to die in the Lord?

a) We can by being baptized into Christ which means the same as being born again.

1) Rev 14:13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.

a) Think about this, after all your labouring here on earth you can "retire" to your house in heaven.

b.) Rev 22:14 Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

1) To meet the requirements for "retirement," you have to do his commandments.

3) Heb 5:8-9 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered; And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

a) This is not a short termed promise.

b) Are we better than Christ?

1) If he obeyed the Father, should we not obey him and have life?

2) Remember we live to die; we die to live.

a) also we cannot do something wrong if we are following the instructions.

b) We cannot do wrong if we are following God's directions. The Gospel.

c) We have everything to gain ~~by~~ doing his will - life everlasting.

d) We have ewrything to lose by not doing his will - life everlasting.

D.) Look at this for a few minutes.

1.) People fuss and fume about water baptism.

Peter says in a) I Pet 3:21 The like figure whereunto even baptism doth also now save us (not the putting away of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God.) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.

EVEN AT THE COST OF FAMILY & FRIENDS

ALSO

1.) Why do people deny such plain teaching?

2.) Have we ever counted how many times God used water to destroy sin or people, or delivered His people?

a.) The flood in Noah's time.

b.) The Red Sea.

c.) The Jordan river.

d.) Naaman's leprosy. (a type of sin)

3.) How long can we live in water?

a.) How long can we live without it?

E.) Rev 22:17 And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

1.) The Spirit is the Holy Spirit. The Bride, is the Church.

2.) Take the water of life freely - no one can force you to do it.

3.) Matt 11:28 Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.

a.) Jesus says to "Come."

III. Closing

A.) What else could we ask for?

1.) Christ wants us to "come".

2.) Won't you obey the Gospel today!

a.) Today is the day of salvation.

b.) Tomorrow may never come.

3.) There were a lot of questions asked in this lesson - questions that only you can answer.