**LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING**

***2 KINGS 20:1***

**INTRODUCTION**  - Country music song by this title was very popular several years ago. From a spiritual standpoint the song holds a principle given to us in the scriptures – Read Text - **2 KIGS 20:1** – King Hezekiah was told he was about to die and he was instructed to set his house in order.

***LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING –***

1. **BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES** - We need to understand the Biblical principle that we are all dying in the sense our life is winding down.
   1. **2 COR. 4:6** - Listen to Paul as he speaks to the brethren at Corinth – We are all terminal our outward man is perishing.
   2. **HEB. 9:27** - Other Bible passages make this very clear to us – Death is no respecter of persons.
   3. **JAMES 4:13-14** - We do not know what will happen tomorrow – So we need to live each day as if it is our last – **JAMES 4:17**
   4. **PSA. 39:4-6** – The Psalmist understood this truth. It actually helps men to live by remembering that we are dying.
   5. **PSA. 90:12** – ***“Teach us to number our days so that we may gain a heart of wisdom”***  To live like we are dying means that we would probably that simplify the things of life.
2. **HOW WOULD I LIVE IF I WERE DYING** – **ECCL. 7:1-2** – Live in such a way so that the day of my death could be better than the day of my birth. What do we need to do to make it so? Humility to repent!
   1. **COL. 3:5-6** - I would repent of my sins – I would take them seriously and take care of them. Paul says “put them to death”
      1. **2 PET. 3:10-15** – What manner of persons ought we to be?
      2. **MATT. 12:36-37** – I would get my house in order.
      3. **ISA. 59:1-2** – I would understand the serious consequences of sin
   2. **GEN. 13:8** – I would let go of petty differences – forgive my neighbor/brother and pursue peace
      1. **MATT. 5:21-24** – Be reconciled do not be angry without a cause.
      2. **LUKE 17:3-4** – Be willing to forgive – let go of petty differences between you and your neighbor or brother or sister in Christ and pursue reconciliation.
   3. **PROV. 4:23** - I would be repulsed by the world – ***“guard your heart with all diligence for out of it are the issues of life.”*** – **PROV. 23:7 *“as he thinketh in his heart so is he”***
      1. **MATT.** **5:28** – Do not look and lust
      2. **JOB 31**:1 - Make a covenant with your eyes
      3. **MATT. 18:6** – What signals do we send with our dress?
      4. **1 JN. 2:15** – We should not love the world
      5. **MATT. 5:8** – Is our heart pure? What do we watch? What do we listen to?
      6. **ROM**. **12:9** – Is our love without hypocrisy?
      7. **1 THESS. 5:21** – Are you holding fast to that which is good?
   4. **LUKE 12:15** – I would view the temporal pursuits of life as insignificant - When you lose one you dearly love in this life you begin to realize the full impact of this truth
      1. **MATT**. **16:26** – How many times have we heard this scripture? Listen to Jesus!
      2. **COL**. **3:2-4** – What is your mindset? If we truly live like we are dying it will help us with our priorities. Find time for the things that matter – church, family, sharing with others, hospitality
   5. **MATT. 24:42-44** – I would strive to be prepared and confident in Christ
      1. **PHIL. 1:21-23** – Paul was confident in the fact to depart and be with Christ is far better. How about us?
      2. **REV. 22:20** – Are we prepared enough to sincerely pray the prayer, “even so come Lord Jesus”?
      3. **JAMES 4:14** – “For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.”
      4. **“He who would teach men how to die would teach them how to live” Mointaigne**
3. **CONCLUSION –** 
   1. **How are you living?**
   2. **Who are you living for?**
   3. **Are you prepared for death? It is coming!**