

## TIME TO GET YOUR HOUSE IN ORDER ISAIAH 38:1

*In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."*

### Introduction:

1. The Bible teaches us that is appointed to man to die. None of us will escape that appointed time.
2. We are reminded of this truth by obituary notices in newspapers and by the funeral processions passing along the streets.
3. The only uncertain thing is how much longer or shorter than the average our own life will be.
4. Knowing that death awaits us, don't you think we should be prepared for when it comes?

### I. IS YOUR SOUL PREPARED FOR DEATH?

- A. Isaiah foretold God's statement to Hezekiah, "*For you shall die.*"
- B. This was a declaration of a familiar truth. **Romans 6:23a** *For the wages of sin is death...*
- C. The universal reign of death over all the generations that have preceded us, necessitates the conclusion that, unless we are alive when the Lord comes, we shall follow them.
- D. However long life may be, it never suggests the question whether there will be exceptions to the general rule. It only suggests the that in any instance death may come to us when we are in fullest health, or by the unexpected accident, or by an illness which has been caught. Hezekiah prayed to God and God gave him 15 more years...and he died.  
**vv. 2-5** *Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed to the LORD, and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly. And the word of the LORD came to Isaiah, saying, "Go and tell Hezekiah, 'Thus says the LORD, the God of David your father: "I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years."*
- E. So when death comes, the question is, "Where will you be spending your eternity?"  
**Romans 6:23b** *...but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

### II. HAVE YOU PREPARED YOUR FAMILY FOR THAT COMING TIME?

- A. To our family it is their deprivation of all that makes us valuable to them.
- B. The influence of our words, acts, spirit, character, all these come into this great account. Death closes the account.
- C. Every man should keep his affairs in such order that if he were suddenly called away there would be no difficulty.
- D. Every person who owns property should, in view of the uncertainty of life, make his will. Many leave this duty to the last.
- E. If it has been so left and sickness comes, it should be one of the first things done. It will not hasten death. It will save expense, it will secure the rights of all, it will prevent disputes, and it will relieve the mind. **Proverbs 13:22a** *A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children...*

### III. HAVE YOU CONSIDERED YOUR CHURCH FOR THAT COMING TIME?

A. Most church members never think about their church when they make their will.

B. Have you ever thought about laying up treasures in heaven? **Matthew 6:19-21** ***Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.***

*John Bunyan tells of Mr. Facing-Both-Ways, who kept one eye on heaven and the other on earth; who sincerely professed one thing and sincerely did another. He tried to cheat God and devil, but in the end cheated only himself and his family.*

C. Most adult family members already are making a living for themselves and are really not needing any large inheritance, so why not set aside some for your church?

D. The reason I am encouraging this is that I am getting toward the end of my life and both my wife and I have made provision for our church to receive some funds when we are both gone to be with our Lord.

E. Brethren, consider your church in you will. Her ministry will continue long after you are gone, and ministry has expenses.

#### Conclusion:

1. Think of the soul's future. Are you prepared for the great journey?
2. Are you ready with your accounts? Recall your obligations to the Almighty. Overcome your reluctance to a thorough conviction of sin.
3. Let there be humility and contrition as you come to face eternity.
4. Seek mercy. There is a Savior. Believe in Him. Yield your heart.
5. If already a Christian, lay up some treasures in heaven.
6. If not near death, or death is not apparently near, don't worry it will come at some point. The only safety is to close with Jesus now.