

**Living Each Day Like It's Your Last**  
**Being Eternally Focused**  
**5/21/2017 Sunday AM**

**Scripture: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-3, John 14:3**

**Introduction**

- Over the past several weeks we have been speaking about living life to the fullest, and pleasing God.
- It is very easy to allow the things of this life to consume us, and to put God on the back burner.
- We live in a day and age where everything is so fast paced and things change on a daily basis.
- Often times we will catch ourselves having been busy, only to find we accomplished nothing.
- This is not how God intended that we live our lives, chasing after the wind, and catching nothing.
- God created us for a purpose and He has a plan for every one of our lives.
- Sometimes to get a grasp on things, we must put this life into its proper perspective.
- This morning, we will talk about Living Each Day Like It's You Last: Being Eternally Focused.

**1 Thessalonians 5:1-3**

<sup>1</sup>Now, brothers, about times and dates we do not need to write to you, <sup>2</sup>for you know very well that the day of the Lord will come like a thief in the night. <sup>3</sup>While people are saying, "Peace and safety," destruction will come on them suddenly, as labor pains on a pregnant woman, and they will not escape.

- Jesus promised us in **John 14:3**, "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."
- We know that Jesus promised to come back and get us, we just do not know when that time will be.
- V. 2 of Thessalonians lets us know that when the Lord returns, he will "come like a thief in the night."
- Paul wrote in the previous chapter about the Rapture of the church, where the dead would rise first and those that are still alive will "meet the Lord in the air."
- V.18 of chapter 4 says, "Therefore encourage each other with these words."
- It is encouraging to us that Jesus is going to fulfill His promise and that He is coming to get us.
- Many people will be caught by surprise at Jesus' coming, although if you read on in chapter 5, we as Christians should not be caught by surprise.
- We all should be waiting with hopeful anticipation for this day to come.
- So many people in this world will be like those mentioned in v. 3, they are living with a false sense of security, however destruction is coming.
- The issue that we are having in the world today, is that no one is vigilant.
- As Christians, we are not living our lives like we are eagerly awaiting Christ's return and those that are lost, are not prepared to meet Christ.
- We should live each day as if it were our last day.
- **If you knew that today was your last day on earth, how would you live differently today?**
- Would you spend more time with your family?
- Would you mend broken relationships?
- Would you simply not have a care in the world, and break all of the rules?
- How you answer the first question shows whether you have a grasp on what Paul is teaching.
- The world tells us to "live life to the fullest" and to live "with no regrets."
- From a worldly perspective, if you knew today was your last day and you were simply going to die, you might live your last day breaking all the rules.
- However, if you are living as if you will be meeting Jesus Christ at any moment, surely your choices would be different.
- The fact of the matter is that tomorrow does not exist and we are not promised the next second of our lives.
- This is what I mean by putting this life into its proper perspective.

- Too often we are just existing in this life and not really living, as we spoke about a couple weeks ago.
  - What I have found is that the younger we are, the more we take this life for granted.
  - The older we are, the more we begin to put everything into its proper perspective.
  - When we are older, certain things that used to be the end of the world, no longer matter at all.
  - Suddenly, we begin to take notice of the things that really matter in this life and we begin “live right.”
  - **Why wait until we get close to the end? When is the end?**
  - Those are great questions because we do not know when our lives end or even when Jesus will return.
  - I think it is fair to say that Christ would be a lot happier with how we lived our lives, if we would do so with eternity more on our minds rather than this world.
  - There is no reason to get down the road of life, only to regret the things of the past and to have wasted time.
  - The Bible is clear to us that any day, Jesus Christ can return to rapture us.
  - Are you ready for that?
  - If Jesus was to return the very next second, would you be ready?
  - Would He find that you were living a life worthy of His sacrifice?
- 
- I challenge everybody to stop for a moment and put your life into perspective.
  - Just be still and quiet for a time, and get away from the hustle and bustle of this life.
  - Examine how you have been living, look at the activities that fill your days, weeks, months, and years.
  - Have you been taking this life for granted?
  - What are the changes that you can make today, to really begin to live your life as Christ would want you to?
  - I don’t know about you, but I do not want Jesus to return or to call me home, only to find that I have been a servant of the world.
  - Those of us that know the reality of Christ’s impending return should seek to help others gain that personal relationship with Jesus.
  - It is never too late to make a change in your life, today is the day.
  - Be encouraged that Jesus Christ will fulfill his promise and it could be any day now.

### **Tonight’s Bible Study**

The Book of Colossians – “Principles for Christian Households” Colossians 3:18-4:1

### **Wednesday Night Bible Study:**

Who’s Who in the Bible: Deborah the Judge