

Glad Tidings

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Set Your House In Order

(Jerry Fite)

King Hezekiah is “*sick unto death*”. The commandment of the Lord through Isaiah is equally sobering: “*Set thy house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live*” (2 Kings 20:1). We all know we will die, but it is especially poignant when you are told the time of your departure from earth is imminent. No longer is death an event for the undefined future, but it is your reality in terms of days, months, or a year.

Setting your house in order might mean you make sure your Will is current and findable. You may want to pay off debts, so your spouse will have fewer worries. Spending valuable moments with loved ones, cementing relationships with heart-felt words may be on your agenda. Being right with the Lord as you soberly contemplate eternity should be a priority of thought in your final days. What did Hezekiah do?

The King immediately turned his face to the wall and cried in prayer to the Lord. His tears were due to the feeling that his life was ending too early: at “*noontide*” and he felt “*deprived of the residue of my years*” (Isaiah 38: 10). Wanting to hold on to

what he normally experienced, he mourns over no longer “*seeing the Lord in the land of the living*” and is saddened because he “*shall behold man no more with the inhabitants of the world*” (Isaiah 38:11). Hezekiah’s petition was for the Lord to remember him for the good he has done in his life. He prayed, “*Remember now, O Jehovah, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight*” (2 Kings 20:3).

God responded by saying, “*I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold I will heal thee...*” (2 Kings 20:5). God granted Hezekiah 15 more years of life (2 Kings 20:6).

Hezekiah’s experience informs us that God not only hears our petitions, but sees our tears. We can talk to him about how we really feel: “Lord, I feel I am being cut down too soon.” We can present to our attentive God the reasons for why we should have more days. We might not be so bold to tell God about all the good we have done, but we can implore God to consider why we think He should heal us and give more days on earth. Maybe we still have a spouse and children who need

monetary support, and spiritual guidance. Let God know why you still want to see Him in the land of the living and behold the inhabitants of the world. Who knows, God may grant more time for you and your loved ones.

Being right with the Lord is essential in getting our house in order. It was important in pleading for life, but was it not equally as important for Hezekiah 15 years later when he did die?

Are you right with the Lord? First, being “*in Christ*” is the right relationship with God (Ephesians 1:3, 4, 7, 10, 11, 13). How do you enter Christ? Man’s opinions are not an option. Following the steps God has revealed is infallible. Believing Jesus is the Son of God (John 8:24), confessing Him as Lord with our mouth (Romans 10:9-10), repenting of our sins, and being baptized for the remission of our sins are all essential to salvation (Acts 2:38). At the point of baptism, we enter Christ to be saved believers. “*For ye are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ did put on Christ*” (Galatians 3:26-27). Do you have your eternal destiny in order?