

## FOR What Is Your LIFE?

**TEXT: James 4:13-14** NKJV Come now, you who say, "Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit"; (14) whereas you do not know what *will happen* tomorrow. For what *is* your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away.

Introduction:

- A. If you were asked, "WHAT IS YOUR LIFE ...", what would you say?
  - a. Life to some is – eating, sleeping and working. The same routine day after day. Boredom, drab, uninteresting.
  - b. Life to others consists in possessing a lot of "things". Jesus observed this in those people in His day. [Luke 12:15](#)
  - c. Life to others is wearing fine clothes, eating and drinking. [Luke 12:22-23](#)
  - d. Life to some is: having a good time, pleasures, music, dancing, merriment, laughter, etc.
  - e. To some life is a succession of tragic events:
    - i. Financial reverses,
    - ii. Sickness
    - iii. Death
    - iv. Unhappiness
  - f. To others life is a meaningful something:
    - i. Precious
    - ii. Purposeful
    - iii. To be valued
    - iv. To be lived in harmony with certain rules
    - v. To be planned
    - vi. To be directed
    - vii. To be accounted for
- B. Life may be defined as the opposite of death; but human life is surely far more significant than a mere existence.
- C. Human life should be defined in terms of preparation and service rather than by the ticking of the clock.

### I. LIFE IS A GIFT

- a. God created man and gave him life. [Genesis 2:7](#); [Ecclesiastes 12:1](#)
- b. Man is the creation of an intelligent First Cause, rather than the product of blind chance.
  - a. Since GOD has given us life, then it is reasonable that we be held responsible to Him for the way we live it. [Ecclesiastes 12:13](#); [Matthew 5:16](#)
  - b. The day will come when we will have to face HIM with our record. [Revelation 20:12](#)

## II. LIFE IS A PREPARATION

- a. It is a period of time in which man should prepare to meet GOD. This was true in Old Testament times [Amos 4:12](#)
  - a. It is true today [2 Corinthians 5:10](#)
  - b. Life has been compared to a dressing room.
  - c. There is but one way to prepare to meet GOD and that is through Jesus. [John 14:6-7](#); [Philippians 1:21](#)

## III. LIFE IS A PERIOD OF BUILDING

- a. Consciously or unconsciously every responsible person is building on either the ROCK or the SAND. [Matthew 7:24-27](#)
- b. The foundation of any house, institution or being is extremely important. [1 Corinthians 3:10](#)

## IV. LIFE IS A CONFLICT OR WAR

- a. No neutrality in this struggle which rages between the forces of Satan and the forces of GOD. [Matthew 6:24](#)
- b. There is a constant war within man. [Matthew 26:41](#); [1 Corinthians 9:27](#)
- c. The Christian is commanded “**put on the whole armor of GOD**” ([Ephesians 6:11-17](#)), and ... **must endure hardship as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.** ([2 Timothy 2:3](#))
  - a. The Sword of the Spirit, our offensive and defensive weapon, was given to **CUT** rather than to **spread BUTTER**. [Hebrews 4:12](#); [Acts 2:37](#)
  - b. May we learn to use it effectively. [2 Timothy 2:15](#)

## V. LIFE IS A MULTIPLICITY OF CHOICES

- a. Man is a creature of choice.
- b. Man’s decisions are vitally important – temporally (in this life) and eternally.
- c. Napoleon said, “In every battle there is a crisis, ten or fifteen minutes only, on which the outcome depends. To make proper use of this short space of time means victory; its neglect, defeat.”
- d. Our most important decisions concern **right** and **wrong**, **truth** and **error**, **GOD** and **Satan**. [Joshua 24:15](#)
- e. We have the example of Moses to inspire us to forsake sin and follow righteousness. [Hebrews 11:24-26](#)
- f. We should follow Jesus’ teaching in [Matthew 6:33-34](#)

## VI. LIFE IS SOMETHING WE MUST LIVE A LITTLE AT A TIME

- a. [Matthew 6:34](#)

This is the only way we can live it. We cannot live yesterday, for it has past; neither can we live tomorrow, for it has not come.
- b. Life seems unbearable to some people, because they try to live too much of it at once. They view life in the lump.

No man is under obligation to carry the burdens of all the future and to solve in one day the problems of a lifetime. We are under obligation to do well only at the present. And the best preparation any man can make for the future is to do now what needs to be done today.

## VII. LIFE IS A VAPOR

- a. [James 4:14](#)
- b. [James 4:15](#)
- c. [Job 14:1-2](#)
- d. [Proverbs 27:1](#)
- e. [Psalms 90:10](#)

So in view of life's brevity, we should pray the prayer of the Psalmist:

[Psalms 90:12](#) NKJV **So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom.**

The clock of life is wound but once, and no man has the power to tell just when the hand will stop – at late or early hour. Now is the only time you own! Live, love, toil with a will; place no faith in tomorrow, for the hand may then be still.

Conclusion:

**The best insurance you can take for the inevitable things of tomorrow is to prepare for Christ TODAY!**