

THINGS WE NEED TO HELP US LIVE BETTER

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Introduction

1. We are busy writing a history of our lives each day.
 - a. At the end of each year, we close another chapter.
 - b. At the end of life, the book is closed.
 - c. This history book of our lives will be opened at Judgment.
 - d. All will be revealed then – Eccl. 12:14; I Tim. 5:24; 2 Cor. 5:10
2. Knowing this, we should strive to make each chapter the best yet.
3. We need, therefore, to study this subject.

I. A REALIZATION OF THE VALUE OF THE SOUL WILL HELP US LIVE BETTER.

- a. Only he who realizes the value of the soul is prepared to live the life God wants him to live.
- b. Do you know the value of your soul? – Matt. 16:26
- c. Do you know why your soul is so valuable?
 - i. It is from God – made in His image – Heb. 12:9; Gen. 1:26.
 - ii. The soul is the only part of man that is eternal – Matt. 10:28; 2 Cor. 4:16.
 - iii. The soul is the object of God’s love – John 3:16; Rom. 5:8.
 - iv. God’s scheme of Redemption shows the value of the soul – Eph. 3:1 – 11.
- d. Realizing the value of the soul, one will do everything in his power to save his soul from hell.

II. A CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE JUDGMENT

- a. God has appointed a day of Judgment – Acts 17:31; Heb. 9:27; 2 Pet. 3:7.
- b. All will be there, no one will escape it – Rom. 14: 10 – 12; Rev. 20:12; Matt. 25: 31 – 46.
- c. We will be judged according to our works – Rev. 20: 12; 2 Cor. 5:10; Rom. 2:6.
- d. A consciousness of these facts will help us live better.
- e. Are you ready for that day to come?

III. A CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE UNCERTAINTY OF LIFE

- a. Life is so short – Job 14: 1 – 2; James 4: 13 – 14.
- b. Our lives on this earth is just a short journey, and during this journey we had better make preparation for the life to come – Job 16:22.
 - i. Men in the Old Testament knew this – Heb. 11: 13 – 16.
 - ii. Christians today are strangers and pilgrims – I Pet. 2:11.
- c. We know not when the end will be.
- d. We should live every day as though it were our last one.

IV. CONSCIOUSNESS OF ONE OF TWO DESTINIES

- a. Both the same length in duration – Eternity – Matt. 25: 41, 46.
- b. One, a place of torment – No experience of man can compare with it – Rev. 20: 15; 20:10; 21:8; Mk. 9: 48; 2 Thess. 1: 8 – 9.

- c. The other, a place of happiness and joy – everything that God can give to make man happy will be there; everything that will make one sad will be absent.
- d. Heaven is a prepared place for prepared people – John 14: 1 – 6.

V. A GREAT DEGREE OF FAITH

- a. Peter began to sink because he lacked faith – Matt. 14: 28 – 31.
- b. Unbelief causes one to depart from God – Heb. 3:12.
- c. The apostles said unto the Lord, *“increase our faith”* – Lk. 17: 5.
- d. Lay aside this sin – Heb. 12: 1 – 2.

VI. CONSCIOUSNESS OF BEING AN EXAMPLE

- a. Elders are to be examples – I Pet. 5:3.
- b. Preachers are to be examples – I Tim. 4:12.
- c. All Christians are to be examples – Phil. 2:15; 1:27.

VII. ENCOURAGING WORDS OF DOING RIGHT

- a. Nothing helps us to improve like encouragement.
 - i. All of us need it.
- b. We usually speak of good things about a man after he is dead.
 - i. We need to give the “roses” while people are living.
- c. We should not resort to flattery, but give honor to whom honor is due.
- d. If you want to help someone live better, speak an encouraging word concerning the things he has done right.

CONCLUSION