

SERIES: "LIVE LIKE YOU WERE"
MESSAGE: SO WHAT ABOUT YOU
TEXT: ROMANS 13:11-12
DATE: March 30, 2008

So What About You **Romans 13:11-12**

Introduction

- A. Video – "That's Life"
- B. We are all terminal – there is a 100% death rate.
 - a. Not if ... but when?
 - b. None of us are exempt and none of us will escape. Ecclesiastes 8:8a (NLT) says, "*None of us can hold back our spirit from departing. None of us has the power to prevent the day of our death...*"
 - c. John 10:10
 - 1. "*I have come to give you life and have it to the fullest.*"
 - 2. Jesus came so we could live life more abundantly, not just in the future, but right now.
- C. Living a life of eternity
 - a. Last seconds shots in the NCAA
 - b. WKU game against Drake – Ty Rogers
 - c. Been working on that shot all his life.
- D. Romans 13:11-12 – NLT & NIV

"And do this, understanding the present time. The hour has come for you to wake u from your slumber, because our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. The night is nearly over; the day is almost here. So let us put aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light." Romans 13:11-12(NIV)

"This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out. // Wake up; our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. // [12] The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes; and put on the shining armor of right living." Romans 13:11-12 (NLT)

I. Live with a Sense of URGENCY –

Paul said there is an incredible sense of urgency, listen again to verse 11
“This is all the more urgent, for you know how late it is; time is running out.

- A. Understand the Present Time – time is running out.
 - 1. I found a website this week called www.biblehelp.org that has a mortality counter. I started it at the same moment we started the service this morning and so far “X” people have died since this worship event started.
 - 2. Unless Jesus returns it is going to happen.
- B. What time is it? Wake Up
 - 1. Alarm Clock
 - 2. Maybe the most dangerous word in the English language is the word “someday.” Many of us here suffer from the “someday syndrome.”
 - a. Someday I’ll make things right with my mom.
 - b. Someday I’ll take that trip.
 - c. Someday I’ll have more time for the kids.
 - d. Someday I’ll talk to my friend about Jesus.
 - e. Someday I’ll go back to school.
 - f. In fact, why don’t you fill in the blank? Someday, I’ll _____.
 - g. If you can’t think of something to put in the blank, ask your spouse or a good friend. Just ask the “what have I been saying that SOMEDAY I would do, but have never gotten around to?”
 - h. You sincerely plan to get around to it. The problem with “some day” is that it can rob us of “this day.”
 - 3. I found another great blog site this week at www.procrastination.com – I opened the blog to talk to people who like putting things off and the message said, “Coming Soon – We’re Working on It”.
- C. Salvation is near – death is coming!
 - 1. Illustration – Shoe’s ready on Friday (p.5)

John Ortberg tells of a blurb in the “Los Angeles Time” newspaper. A guy returns to the house where he grew up. He’d been away for 20 years. He comes back and visits it.

He goes up into the attic and he finds his jacket. It had not gone with him in the move. It had been there for 20 years. He puts it on and puts his hand in the pocket and he pulls out a receipt for a pair of shoes that he had taken in to be repaired 20 years ago and had forgotten to pick up.

So on a whim, he goes to where the shoe repair shop used to be in his old neighborhood, and it's still there. The same guy is still working behind the counter that worked there 20 years ago. So, this guy reaches into his jacket, pulls out the receipt, and hands it to the man behind the counter.

The man goes back to the work area and returns to the counter and says to the guy in the jacket, "They'll be ready Friday."

2. Guys life is moving on – with or without us!

D. Life is full of lost opportunities

1. What would it be like to have a "No Regrets" week – to live in such a way that we could all come back next Sunday knowing we did all we could for people.
2. In the NCAA tournament, one of the biggest struggles for coaches is convincing the players that just getting there is not enough.
3. Coaches challenge players to finish the game knowing -We left it all on the floor.
4. There is so much at stake in this game of life – if we are going to live like we were dying we have got to be willing to leave it all on the floor. **GOD FIRST.**

II. Live with a Sense of ETERNITY –

A. Romans 13:11 – "Salvation is near." – NIV

1. *Wake up; our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. NLT*
2. As much as it is a mistake to take today for granted, it is an even bigger mistake to take eternity for granted. While we need to learn to embrace today, we must never think that "today" is all there is. Even a lot of Christians live like there is nothing beyond the grave. Let's be honest, most of us are so consumed with pursuing the good life here and now, and eternity rarely crosses our mind.

- B. Night is almost over – I know that the end times are almost here.
 - 1. Either the Lord’s Return will happen or we will die.
 - 2. Our own death – none of us will ever again celebrate Easter on March 23. At least not on earth!
- C. The good news is we have already won the game. That is what SALVATION is all about.

Paul pleads with us to “wake up,” for the coming of our salvation is nearer now than when we first believed. What does he mean when he says “the coming of our salvation is nearer now”?

The Bible talks about our salvation in past, present, and future tense. There was a moment in the past when I personally received Christ as my Savior. At that moment of conversion the Bible says that I was “born again,” I was saved. But the Bible also says that I am “being” saved which is present tense. Salvation isn’t just an historical event, it is living and dynamic and active in my life today. But, the Bible also talks about my salvation in the future. It is the idea that my salvation will one day be complete when I am in the presence of Jesus. I will no longer struggle with sin and will be living in my glorified body.

- 1. Past – we were saved -
- 2. Present – we are being saved -
- 3. Future – we will be saved –

- D. It is going to end and eternity is on the other side.
 - 1. You can’t escape it.
 - 2. But you can decide where you will spend it.

E. The apostle Paul writes in 2 Corinthians 4:18(NIV), “*So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*”

III. Live with a Sense of PRIORITY –

- A. Romans 13:12 –“*The night is almost gone; the day of salvation will soon be here. So remove your dark deeds like dirty clothes; and put on the shining armor of right living.*”
 - 1. Put aside the deeds of darkness.
 - 2. Like removing dirty clothes
 - 3. Repentance / Cleansing / Start Fresh Each Day

B. Put on the Armor of Light

1. Clean and fresh
2. Powerful - suit of that turned Peter Parker, a reluctant teenager hung up on his "self-obsessions with rejection, inadequacy, and loneliness" into Spider Man
3. "Thor" he was a wimpy guy until he picked up his hammer.
4. "Captain America" was a sickly wimpy guy until he got his super soldier serum.
5. Suit (armor) is of no use unless you wear it into battle. Suit is made for the battle.
 - a. You can go into battle without wearing the suit.
 - b. You wouldn't wear the suit around the house unless you were planning for battle.
 - c. Just putting on the suit doesn't give you the victory.

C. No Regrets Week

1. Slow down your pace of life
 - a. Hurry is a devious enemy of the abundant life. In our rush to accomplish, achieve, and live life to the fullest, we rob ourselves of some of life's richest moments.
 - b. I have to believe that if we knew we were dying, we wouldn't speed up, but rather we would slow down. We would "put off" some things that clutter our lives.
2. Rethink what you're pursuing
 - a. I wonder how many people get near the end of their life and have a moment like this. It's early in the morning and you can't sleep.
 - b. And it's like you have popped in a DVD and you begin to see different seasons of your life.
 - c. You have exchanged so much of your life to acquire, purchase, and possess and now, all that stuff just doesn't matter. On the balance sheet of life, possessing cars, and houses, and clothes, and stuff don't add up to much.
3. Focus on Relationships
 - a. Slowing down allows you to pay attention, pay attention to relationships.
 - b. Not spending all your energy in pursuit of the "good life", frees up time for people.
 - c. After all, people are eternal and your relationship with God is eternal.

Bottom Line:

The reality is the clock is running. If we are going to live like we are dying that means the clock is ticking down the final seconds. Some of us are even in overtime, we have been given an extra period of life.

In the last few seconds of the game you have several options.

- Let time run out.
- Assume you have already lost.
- Waste time dribbling.
- Foul
- Run & Shoot
- Run a pre-designed play

Living like you were dying is...

... More about today, less about tomorrow.

... More about people, less about possessions.

... More about God's priorities, less about my plans.

... More about the eternal, less about the temporal.

What are you going to do?

- Love, Pray, Prepare
- Do them with a sense of urgency, a sense of eternity, and a sense of priority.