

*Preparing for life can bring **DEATH,**
while preparing for death can bring **LIFE ETERNAL!***

High school graduation is finally here. We have reached a milestone. As young adults we go to college to prepare for our adult life. We have worked too hard for many years not to strive to achieve our best. College is much more difficult than high school. We have a responsibility to our families and ourselves to do the best we can do. After all, schooling is quite expensive and time consuming.

Choosing a career; or choosing a mate; or raising a family can all play an important part in the beginning of our adult lives. Each of these responsibilities can cause a great deal of stress. The decisions we make today will affect the rest of our lives! There just never seems to be enough time to be actively involved for the LORD. "There's surely someone else who can teach the Bible classes for now, later I'll have more time."

Unintentionally we get caught up in living. Entering the work force is a "rat race". There are many hours to be spent in achieving the highest levels in our field of endeavor. Regardless of which walk of life we choose, trying to realize our financial desires consumes us. We want to leave a good legacy for the next generation. Besides the more money we make the more we have left over to give to the church...right?

We are finally attaining the goals we have set and things change! Over the course of time there are even higher levels for which to work and the goals we had previously set seem insufficient. There are so many demands to keep ahead. Is it not true that the LORD wants us to be all we can? We still attend the services of the church...most the time. We realize we need to get more involved in the LORD's work...and we will someday...soon. The LORD holds us responsible for the welfare of our family. We have to make preparations for our futures...don't we?

Finally, we reach the goals we have worked so hard to obtain. Still there's much time and effort required to maintain the standard of living we have acquired. We look forward to retirement and we strive daily to prepare so we can live at a certain level of comfort at that time. If we don't plan for our future who will? Our golden years are supposed to be our best! We are trying to do all the right things to insure that our dreams can come true. There will be lots of time to visit and do for the LORD then.

Reaching our golden years, there are many opportunities for us to enjoy ourselves. We have worked hard to get here and we deserve to have some time of leisure! Finally, there's time to take a deep breath. It's a good thing to, because although there is more time, we have a great deal less energy. Surely the LORD does not expect things from us that we just don't have to give. The younger people can do the LORD's work with fresh enthusiasm and zeal. We'll just step aside to allow them their turn. Surely the LORD knows there is so much more that they will be able to offer.

Can you identify yourself in the above scenario of life? If so, what do you plan to say to the LORD at retirement? "For years LORD there was just not enough time, now there is not enough energy?" Do you want to face judgment this way?

So many of us prepare [or are preparing] for life and fail to prepare for death.

"...It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27)

No matter our age or station in life there will always be much to do and little time in which to accomplish it. Too often, we busy ourselves with taking care of the everyday things and the spiritual matters are pushed aside into a pile of good intentions. There are times when we are guilty of using one command of the LORD, [such as "taking care of our families"] as an excuse to neglect other commands of the LORD, [such as "teaching"]. There is one appointment we will not be able to push aside. Please consider these thoughts in light of eternity. Where will you stand?

“Then shall the King say unto them on the right hand, Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.... Then shall He say also unto them on the left hand, depart from me ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels.” (Matthew 25:34, 41)