

24 Hours To Live

1 Samuel 28:5-7; 11-20 (text v. 19)

BACKGROUND (1 Samuel 15) — Saul disobeyed God's command to destroy the Amalekites and that sealed his doom (15:23, 28).

God refused to answer Saul. Saul turns to a witch for help. He asks the witch to summons the prophet Samuel from the grave to give him some answers. Samuel lowers the boom and pronounces the death sentence on Saul—In 24 hours he would be dead (1 Sam. 28:19). That message knocks Saul to the ground. (“The Message That Will Knock You Flat”).

The message Samuel delivered to Saul was, “**Saul, your number's up.**”

What did Saul do with the time he had left? You would have thought He would have used the time he had left to repent and get right with God... Seek David to make amends with him. **But no**—It was business as usual. He sits on the bed... eats supper with the witch (his last meal)... then goes out and dies as a suicide on the battlefield (1 Sam. 31:3-6).

➡ Saul knew how much time he had left. What would YOU do if God told you that you only had 24 hours left to live? What would you do if you knew that tomorrow morning you'd go out into eternity to met God? What would you do if you knew you'd be dead this time tomorrow and your name be in the obituary this Tuesday? **Would anything change?**

- If I knew I'd be dead in 24 hours do you think I'd spend it eating or sitting in on the bed (1 Sam. 28:23).

One thing is sure—If the Lord doesn't come back first, you and I are going to die (Heb. 9:27). B.R. Lakin once said, “The way to keep from dying is find out where you are going to die and don't ever go there.”

The truth is, we don't know how much time we have to live. It could be years... or months... or weeks... or days... or only hours and minutes. David said, “*There is but a step between me and death*” (1 Sam. 20:3). Someday you will take your **last step**... breathe your **last breath**... your **heart will beat for the last time**. You and I are only one heartbeat away from the grave.

➡ We are admonished to “*Prepare to meet thy God*” (Amos 4:12).

If I knew I only 24 hours to live I wouldn’t spend it watching TV... listening to my iPod... shopping... working out on a treadmill... napping on the couch.

➡ If I were you, here are **three things** I would do if I knew tomorrow morning I would go out into eternity.

If I ever took to heart the command, “*Redeeming the time*” it would be if I knew I only had 24 hours left. I’d seek to make every second count.

I. I would examine myself to be sure I was **SAVED**.

- 2 Corinthians 13:5— *Examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is in you, except ye be reprobates?*
- A. The most important thing in life is to know you are saved. More important than knowing... what is in your bank account... how you’re going to spend your vacation... who is going to win the Superbowl... who is going to win the presidential election in November.
 - B. It is possible to know you are saved (1 John 5:13).
 - Paul knew. He gave his testimony of salvation several times in the New Testament. He knew **where** he was saved (Damascus Road); he knew the **time** he was saved (Acts 22:6- “about noonday”); he knew **how** he was saved (by believing and calling upon the name of the Lord for salvation- Rom 10:9-10, 13).
 - C. How can I know I am saved (John 20:31; John 1:12; 3:18, 36; Acts 16:31).
 - D. Is Jesus dwelling within you? Do you know without a shadow of doubt that your name is written in the Lamb’s Book of Life?
 - When Jesus comes into a person’s life, that life changes (Rom. 8:14). If there is no change, you could still be reprobate.
 - 2 Peter 3:10—“*Give diligence to **make your calling and election sure.***”

II. I would make sure all my family was saved.

- A. In Luke 16, Jesus talked about a rich man in hell. That rich man in hell cried out for God to send Lazarus to his father's house—*"I have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment."*
1. Once a person knows he is saved, his main concern should be for those close to him to be saved also.
 2. Paul said, *"I have a great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart... for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh... that they might be saved"* (Rom. 9:2-3; 10:1).
- B. I want to leave this world knowing I'll see my wife, my daughters, and my grandchildren again in heaven (call them out).
- C. If you are saved and your loved one dies unsaved, the next time you see them will be at the Great White Throne Judgment when they are cast into the lake of fire (Rev. 20:11-15).

➡ Let's get serious about the salvation of our lost loved ones.

1. Are you praying for their salvation?
2. Are you fasting for them?
3. Are you witnessing to them?
 - ➡ Are you worried they might cuss you out or slam the door in your face? What difference would that make if you knew you would be dead in 24 hours anyway?

III. I would make sure I am thoroughly right with God.

- A. I'd ask God to reveal to me any hidden unconfessed sins (Ps. 139:23-24).
- B. I'd ask God to reveal to me if I have wronged anyone so I could ask forgiveness or make restitution.
- C. I'd ask God to show me any fault or unresolved issue that exists between me and another Christian, so I could be reconciled.
- I would not be making excuses or alibis before God. I would not be blaming anyone for the problem. I'd take responsibility and get it straightened out ASAP!

➤ Is there anything in your life right now that is hindering your relationship with God? Get it right.

SUMMATION: My dear mother died of a brain aneurism when she was only 38. I was a teenager. She was in a coma for about two weeks before she died. Her condition was critical, but I didn't realize how critical.

The doctors did brain surgery to clamp off a broken blood vessel and relieve some of pressure on her brain. I went to visit her a few times in the hospital while she was in a comatose condition. I hated seeing her like that—head wrapped in bandages... tubes running out of her... darkened eyes. I would speak to her, but she didn't respond outwardly. She never regained consciousness.

If I would have known she'd be dead in a few days, I would have visited her bedside more often. But instead, while she lay in the hospital dying, most of the time I was out goofin' off with my buddies. Now, I wish I would have spent those last few days at her side.

My only conciliation is knowing she trusted Christ as her Lord and Savior a couple of months before she died and I'll see her again in heaven.

➤ If we only realized how short life really is. It is a vapor. It is swift as a weaver's beam. It is like an hands breath. It is one step off.

As the country song says, we need to **live like we are dying**, because we are! Too many of us are living like we will never die.

If you were to die tomorrow, why not get saved today... tell your lost loved ones to get saved today... get right with God today?

You say, "But, I ain't gonna die tomorrow."

And who told you that?