

What Would You Change

By: Justin Witt

Suppose you could know for a fact that in 24 hours your life here on earth would be over? Or suppose you knew it would be exactly one week from today? Would you go through the next day/week exactly as you have the last day/week?

Consider **Ezekiel 12:26-28**.

The people of Israel took for granted the warnings that the Lord had given. They didn't doubt the validity of the prophecies that were being spoken, they doubted the immediate need to do anything about them. How easy is this to do?

There are many people in the world that claim to believe in God, they claim to believe in the God of the Bible. They claim to believe that Jesus came and died for each of us so that we all might have hope. They claim to believe what Jesus taught and recognize that there is a difference between heaven and hell at stake. But how many completely change their lives to be in line with what Jesus taught? Much like the case was with Israel, there is frequently a sense of apathy about it all. There is a recognition of at least some of what followers of Christ should be doing, but a lack of effort because it is not seen as an immediate need. Perhaps many feel that the end is too far into the future to really worry about it. Perhaps people perceive that there is plenty of time to make whatever changes are necessary. Which brings us back to the question that I started with. What would you change in your life if you knew for a fact that your days were almost up?

If you are not a Christian, would you seek to learn and become a Christian sooner rather than later? Whether you are a Christian or not, would you open up your Bible more often throughout the next day/week? Would you make more of an effort to turn from the sin in your life? Would you make more of an effort to teach the gospel to the lost? Would you be more generous, more hospitable, more loving, more prayerful?

We have no amount of time that is guaranteed to us. There was a rich man in Luke 12:16-21. He spent his time focusing on himself, seeking his own wealth and taking pride in all that he perceived he had done. He never focused on God or on His will. He never sought to do what was right or to give alms to others. As a result, it was said that on this day his life will be required and all that he had done would be for nothing. He had done nothing to reach salvation, he had done nothing that would last, he had done nothing worthwhile. And while he might have made some significant changes had he been given a week's warning or a month's warning, we all learn from this parable that sometimes no further warning will be given as he had to give an account on that night.

Amos 4 gives quite a warning to the people of Israel. It speaks of the evil they had done and the warnings they had been given. God says He had given them hunger, withheld rain from them, blasted them with blight and mildew, sent plagues after the manner of Egypt among them, and overthrew some of them as He did Sodom and Gomorrah. Yet none of these things caused them to return to the Lord. None of these caused them to take seriously the warnings that they had been given. After all those things we see in Amos 4:12

"Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

You have been given all the warnings that a person needs. There is a heaven and a hell. There is eternal life and eternal condemnation. The choices you make today will determine where you will be headed. If there are things in your life that you would change if you knew that you only had one day/week left to live then you need to seriously ask yourself why you have not made those changes yet. In Ezekiel and Amos we see that Israel sent the message to God that they were not overly concerned with His warnings. What message are you sending to God with the decisions that you make today?