

## IF I HAD ONLY A YEAR TO LIVE

Isa. 38:1, "Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die."

### Introduction:

1. Hezekiah's notice to prepare for death coming in the near future.
2. What would you do if you were told you had only a year to live? How would you feel?
3. Here are some things NOT to do.
  - A. Do not shorten your life even more drastically to end it suddenly by suicide.
  - B. Do not "take a fling" of loose living and reckless revelry.
  - C. Do not be bitter or worry yourself into a melancholy gloom of despair.

### WHAT I WOULD DO:

- I. I would make sure I was right with God.
  - A. That my sins were forgiven
    1. The need of forgiveness
      - a. The fact of sin
      - b. The consequences of unforgiven sin
    2. The Way of forgiveness
      - a. Remission provided through the Blood of Christ
      - b. Remission accepted by faith.
    3. The Results of Forgiveness
      - a. Peace of heart
      - b. Joy of life
      - c. Hope of heaven
  - B. That My Heart Was Pure
    1. "Blessed are the pure in heart"
    2. No compromise with sin in the life
    3. The fullness of the Holy Spirit

II. I would Make Sure I Was Right With My Fellow Men.

  - A. That I harbored no hatred or ill feelings
  - B. That I was magnanimous in my dealings with others
  - C. I would give special attention and time to my family and see that they were provided for.

III. I Would MAKE SURE THAT MY LIFE WAS DEDICATED  
IN SERVICE TO GOD AND MAN.

A. Winning lost souls to Christ

B. Helping Christian Believers

1. All Christians everywhere, without prejudice,

2. Esp. young converts, young people, and

children, knowing they could carry on after

I was gone.

C. I would support Christian missions to the limit of my ability.

1. I am sure I would put direct evangelism ahead of institutional work.

2. There are churches in Costa Rica with only 100 members starting new missions. - (Dottson Mills)

D. I would take a positive stand against all prevalent evils and fight them to the end.

E. I would serve unceasingly in the church, investing my last energy, activity, and resources in it, remembering it in my will, and I believe it to be the only divinely instituted religious organization on earth.

I would put the church ahead of all other good, worthy, and humanitarian causes, not because they are not deserving of my support and assistance, but because I cannot do everything this last year of my life, and I am compelled by common sense to select and concentrate on something supremely important.

F. I would be LOYAL AND PATRIOTIC to our COUNTRY and to the things we stand for in the American way of life.

G. I would seek out and help particular individuals in need or in trouble, thinking more about others than about myself, and leaving behind me a trail of kindness and thoughtfulness.

This would help me more than I would help them.

CONCLUSION: I would pray for a quick, quiet, and peaceful departure, but I would discipline and prepare my heart during the year with spiritual exercises and devotions, so that if the last weeks should be hard and painful, I would be able to bear it in quiet faith, Christian grace and cheerful surrender to the Lord "Who doeth all things well."

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