

30 days to live

"LEAVING A LEGACY"

Pastor Chuck Wysong
Sunday, February 20, 2011

"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away. My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath." Psalm 39:4-5 (NLT)

"LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be." Psalm 39: 4 (In Prayer)

There are actions of the wise and actions of the fool – it's wise to obey

"Anyone who listens to My teaching and obeys Me is wise, like a person who builds a house on solid rock. Though the rain comes in torrents and the floodwaters rise and the winds beat against that house, it won't collapse, because it is built on rock. But anyone who hears My teaching and ignores it is foolish, like a person who builds a house on sand. When the rains and floods come and the winds beat against that house, it will fall with a mighty crash." Matthew 7:24-27

Obedience to God's ways will produce fruitfulness

"Remain in Me [Jesus], and I will remain in you. For a branch cannot produce fruit if it is severed from the vine, and you cannot be fruitful apart from Me." John 15:4

"Yes, the way to identify a tree or a person is by the kind of fruit that is produced." Matthew 7:20

Obedience and fruitfulness will leave a legacy

"[Jesus said]... I appointed you to go and produce fruit that will last..." John 15:16

"For to me [Paul], living is for Christ, and dying is even better. Yet if I live, that means fruitful service for Christ." Philipppians 1:21-22

Obedience → Fruitfulness = LEGACY

BIG [picture]: BELIEVE THAT I AM CAPABLE OF LEAVING A LEGACY

- What type of legacy will I leave?
- Are the things I'm spending my time on legacy-worthy?
- When will I get serious about my own legacy?

ME [practical]: LET'S TURN SOMEDAY INTO TODAY

1. SAY THE WORDS GOD WANTS US TO SAY

"My son, pay attention to what I say; listen closely to my words. 21 Do not let them out of your sight, keep them within your heart; 22 for they are life to those who find them and health to a man's whole body. 23 Above all else, guard your heart, for it is the wellspring of life." Proverbs 4:20-24

Above all else, here's what I want you to know:

2. DO WHAT GOD SENT US TO DO

"However, I consider my life worth nothing to me, if only I may finish the race and complete the task the Lord Jesus has given me-the task of testifying to the gospel of God's grace." Acts 20:24

What is your unfinished assignment?

3. LIVE HOW GOD WANTS US TO LIVE

"Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says." James 1:22

"The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever." 1 John 2:17

"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. 7 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. 8 Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness..."
2 Timothy 4:6-8

GOD [power]: ACKNOWLEDGE GOD EVERYDAY

"So remember this and keep it firmly in mind: The LORD is God both in heaven and on earth, and there is no other god!" Deuteronomy 4:39

"Great is His faithfulness; His mercies begin afresh each day." Lamentations 3:23

Week 1: Live like I'm dying
Week 2: Love like I'm forgiven
Today: LEAVE A POSITIVE LEGACY

Additional Scriptures to Study: Deuteronomy 28:1, 30:15-16; Joshua 1:8; Galatians 5:22-23; Ephesians 5:15-17; Philippians 1:20; 2 John 1:10

TIME WITH GOD

Memory Verse: "LORD, remind me how brief my time on earth will be. Remind me that my days are numbered, and that my life is fleeing away. 5 My life is no longer than the width of my hand. An entire lifetime is just a moment to you; human existence is but a breath." Psalm 39:4-5 NLT

Monday

Read Psalms 39:4-5. When have you been reminded that life is brief? How does knowing that our time here is fleeting encourage you to live to the fullest today? Look over your notes from this week's message. What was the big idea for you? How did God speak to you? How will you apply it to your life today?
Ask God to show you where you need to grow in your life. Thank God for every breath you will take and every conversation you will have with your significant people in your life.

Tuesday

Read Matthew 7:24-27. It's so easy to build on the wrong foundation. Even Christians can base their lives on values imported from the culture. What "false foundations" have at times held appeal for you?

Circle two: Pleasure. Comfort. Fame. What others say or think about me. Current cultural values. Possessions / Money / Nice, comfortable house. Teachings I have learned that are contrary to Christ's. Other: _____

In contrast to what our culture believes, how do we build on a solid foundation? Why does the foolish man build his house on the sand? Why is it wiser to build your house on the rock? (The words of Jesus). Since this is at the end of the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus is referring specifically to the words he just spoke. They are in your Bible in Matthew chapters 5, 6 and 7. Skim through those chapters now. Which teachings of Christ in those chapters catch your attention?

Ask God to help you develop strong convictions based on the rock of Jesus' teachings and not the whims of society or culture.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 6:19-24. Why does Jesus say we should not store up treasures on earth? How can you store up treasure for yourself in heaven? What do verses 22-23 mean in relation to this? Read Matthew 10:42. If you will get a reward for even an act as small as giving a cup of cold water, what are some other things that you do regularly that you will be rewarded for?

Pray for opportunities today to focus on acts that will bring you rewards in heaven.

Thursday

Read Luke 12:13-21. In response to the man's request, Jesus tells a parable. What does this tell you about the man's real problem? In your own words, what is the punch line to the parable? It's interesting that God actually does not condemn the man for being rich, nor making merry. What is the man's mistake? Most advertising is devoted to make us think verse 15 is wrong. What lifestyle differences would result if someone believed Jesus rather than the ads? Think of your life as planning an "investment portfolio" to become "rich toward God." What are your strategies this week? This year?

Pray: Lord, I want my life to count for eternity. Show me how to invest my life better as I go about my days.

Friday

Read 1 Corinthians 13. If you are very familiar with these verses, try reading them in a version unfamiliar to you. You can find various translations at www.biblegateway.org. If love lasts forever, how are you leaving a legacy of love for your family and friends and generations to come? How will you love others more this week?

Ask God to help you love more today — in His power!

Saturday

Finish up any devotions you may have missed. Meditate on the memory verse, *Please pray for the services this weekend.*