

2 Peter 1:12-15

Live Like You Were Dying

¹² For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know and are established in the present truth. ¹³ Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, ¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me. ¹⁵ Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.

Back in 2004 that country Music theologian Tim McGraw put out a song with the title: Live like you were dying.

A) The song is a conversation McGraw is having with a man in his 40's who suddenly gets the news that he hasn't got long to live

It went like this:

"I was in my early forties
With a lot of life before me
When a moment came that stopped me on a dime
I spent most of the next days
Looking at the x-rays
And talkin' 'bout the options
And talkin' 'bout sweet time"

I asked him "When it sank in
That this might really be the real end
How does it hit you
When you get that kind of news?
Man, what'd you do?"

And he said

I went skydiving
I went Rocky Mountain climbing
I went 2.7 seconds on a bull named Fu Manchu
And I loved deeper
And I spoke sweeter
And I gave forgiveness I'd been denying"
And he said
"Someday I hope you get the chance
To live like you were dying

C) The Philosophy of that song – do the things that you have been putting off –
1) and make things right in all your relationships

About 5 yrs later a Christian by the name of Kris Allen – won American Idol – he comes out with a song with the same title.

A) His lyrics went like this:

we gotta start lookin' at the hands of the time we've been given
If this is all we got, then we gotta start thinkin'
If every second counts on a clock that's tickin'
Gotta live like we're dying
We only got 86,400 seconds in a day to
Turn it all around or to throw it all away
We gotta tell 'em that we love 'em while we got the chance to say
Gotta live like we're dying

B) In his song – Allen is encouraging his listeners to realize – that we are all living on borrowed time
1) and we need to make the most of it!

C) Well the apostle Peter could have written a similar song

As we come to v.12-15 we find that Peter has his own impending death on his mind as he writes to the church.

A) He seems to know that his days are numbered -
¹⁴ knowing that shortly I *must* put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

B) The early Puritans believed the aim of every Christian should be to live well and "die well"?

C) One of the most notable examples of somebody who lived well and died well was a guy by the name of Polycarp.

D) If you know church history you recognize that name

1) Polycarp was a disciple of the apostle John.

He lived in a time and he died at a time when persecution and martyrdom under the Roman regime was at an all-time high.

A) He was arrested because of his faith when he was eighty-six years old.

B) He was taken by the Romans who tried to get him to renounce his faith in Christ and his belief that Jesus is Lord!

1) They said, "Come on, how hard can it be to just say the words Caesar is lord?"

C) Polycarp responded "You know, for eighty-six years I have served Jesus, and He has done me no wrong. How can I blaspheme my King who saved me?"

That merely served to irk the Romans further and the Roman executioner said that he would put him in a fire and the fire would be extremely hot.

A) Polycarp responded by saying, "You threaten me with a fire that burns for one hour, and you know nothing of the fire of the coming judgment and eternal punishment reserved for the ungodly."

B) Drop the mic - How's that for your last words? How's that for living well and dying well?

C) Solomon said in the book of Ecclesiastes, "There's a time to be born, and there's a time to die."

1) And in between those two points is what we call "life."

D) We are creatures of time, but we are bound for eternity.

1) The question we have to face is: How will we spend our time here to make it count for eternity?

E) Peter in these 4 verses gives us some insight into what that looks like: 3 Points today

#1 Live with Death in mind:

A) I know that sounds so foreign to say, especially to a younger person. Live with death in mind?
Who does that?

B) That is exactly what Peter is doing here - If you go to verse 11, the last verse of the paragraph we looked at last week,

C) Peter writes to his audience about the prospect of entering heaven, the eternal kingdom- he says, "For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ."

He is speaking about entering heaven one day!

A) Then he follows that idea by saying in v.12 "For this very reason."

Aa) For what reason? For the reason he just wrote about in verse 11. **For the reason of one day entering heaven.**

B) That becomes his present motivation for what Peter says next and for the way he approaches life
1) HEAVEN IS CALLING !

C) Peter believed his own death was pretty imminent.

Peter speaks of his death twice, in these verses once cryptically and once very plainly:

A) cryptically, when he speaks about getting rid of the tent;

B) plainly, when in verse 15 he says, "That you will have a reminder of these things after my decease."

C) the word Decease is interesting.- it is the word exodos.

1) It's leaving one place on your way to another place.

"I'm leaving earth; I'm on my way to heaven.

A) So, in this entire passage, Peter is living his life with his own death in mind.

B) It is good for all of us to think that way because it makes you think about – what you are doing now? –

1) How you are using your time, gifts and resources now? Are you using them wisely?

C) Think of it in this way: - let's say you go to a lawyer, and you have one hour with the lawyer and he says, "This is going to cost you \$250 per hour."

1) So as the clock begins. Are you going to small talk? – "So, tell me about your upbringing"?

D) You could care less about his upbringing at that time. You want to get your money's worth.

1) You're going to use it wisely.

We need to think of our lives that way:

A) We are all on the clock – you start dying the day you are born – **dying process begins**

B) It only becomes more evident the older you get

C) Find yourself going to more funerals than weddings.

D) Let this stick with you today: You are on the clock – are you making the most of your time?

#1 Live with your death in mind

#2 Live like you are camping out –

A) Twice in the passage before us – Peter uses the word Tent -In verse 13 he says, "I think it's right, as long as I'm in **this tent** to stir you up by reminding you, v.14 knowing that shortly I must put off **my tent**, just as the Lord Jesus Christ has shown me."

B) What is he talking about? Peter is using a familiar metaphor of the human body/ this body is like a tent.

C) Paul also spoke of death this way. 2 Corinthians 5, "We know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed"---the word literally means "taken down"

"We know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed" we have a building from God, a house not made with hands that is eternal in the heavens."

So both Peter and Paul draw on this analogy – the human body is like a tent

A) Tents are temporary structures – they are not meant to be lived in for long periods of time –

B) How many of you like camping?

- 1) Tent camping?
- 2) RV camping?
- 3) Hotel camping?

C) Even those of you who like Tent camping I think would agree it is great for a short time:

1) But eventually you start longing for a warm soft bed – longing for a shower

D) This body is like a tent and tents are temporary dwellings –

1) They are not meant to live in forever because they don't last forever

E) They wear out run down/ Our bodies are the same

Paul said further in 2 Corinthians 5:2-5

² Indeed, **we groan** in this tent, desiring to put on our heavenly dwelling, ³ since, when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ Indeed, **we groan** while we are in this tent, burdened as we are, because we do not want to be unclothed but clothed, so that

mortality may be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now the one who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us the Spirit as a down payment.

CSB 2 Corinthians 5:2-5

Twice he mentions – we groan: - These bodies groan right?

A) Also mentions being burdened – that is the nature of the tent

B) But this is what we must understand: The real you is not your tent. Your spirit is the real you.

1) The body is simply the means by which you can convey and relate and communicate with others. –

2) It is helpful to us in that way

C) But after a while it becomes less and less helpful in conveying who you are really are.

1) One day the tent just falls apart – the body quits functioning – we call that death

D) You will make your exodus, a departure, a taking down of the tent.

1) And that is the best way to view death.

E) It is not accurate to say of a believer, "He died, she died."

1) It is more accurate to say, "He moved, she moved into the everlasting kingdom prepared for you by the Lord."

No wonder Paul, when he writes Philippians, says, "For me to live is Christ,

A) Note that is an identity statement - Paul saying this is what I am living for/ this is what my life is about – Jesus

B) Knowing Jesus, following Jesus, serving Jesus – enjoying Jesus

1) For me to live is Christ – to die is gain

C) Death is the culmination of what I am living for

1) To See Jesus face to face – forever live with Jesus in His Kingdom

2) Serving with Jesus forever when he returns

D) This life is the Prologue – Eternity is the real thing

1) For me to Live is Christ – that is my identity – to die is gain

We live in a culture that is searching for their identity

A)Some people find their identity in what they do – Profession – making money

B)For me to live is money – to die is to leave it all behind

C)Others find their identity in what they own – Possessions – car they drive, the house they live in
1)For me to live is having the best of everything – and to die is to leave it to someone else – **NO**

UHAULS

D)We live in the era of the influencer – Kids in School what do you want to be grow up –
1)Policeman, Fireman, Doctor –

E)Today one of the **top answers** – I want to be an influencer – have my own YouTube channel

1)For me to live is to be an influencer and to die – to die alone!

See only the Person who is living for Jesus can say – For me to live is Christ and to die is gain!

A)Paul goes on to say, "**To die is much better.**"

B)So live your life like you're camping and don't make it all about the tent."

C)Investing in the kingdom – more in heaven – than in my bank account

¹⁹“Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.
Matthew 6:19-21

Now I don't think Jesus is saying that it is wrong to have a retirement account –

A)It is wrong to make sure your house looks decent – that can be a witness to your neighbors

B)But he is saying – you need to be investing more in your eternal home than in your temporary tent?

C)So at the end of your life – look back – where was the majority of your time, effort and resources invested in ?

1)Temporary things or eternal things

Red tags – temporary – Green tags eternal

A)Possessions – temporary – People

B)Reminder – This Kingdom the kingdom of this world – temporary – His Kingdom is eternal

1)Where are you invested in the most? -

C)How will we spend our time to make it count for eternity?

D)Live with Death in mind – Live like.....camping

#3 Live for a legacy that outlives you

A)The insight that Peter gives us on how to do that is to live for the benefit of others

B)There is a lot of talk right now in the church on the subject of Spiritual formation – **practicing silence and solitude**

1)Another way of saying having a healthy Devotional life

C)And I am all for anything that gets people spending more personal time with Jesus

1)Called to BE WITH HIM – before do anything for him

But the danger right now in the Church on this emphasis on Spiritual formation and Silence and solitude is it breeds individualism

A)I don't need others – I don't need the church – I am just into spending alone time with Jesus

B)I have my Bible, books, my podcast – listen to sermons by my favorite preachers – I am good

C)But there is a danger in that because – we have been made in the image of God –

D)God is a relational being

1)Point of the gospel – Sin and the fall – took man out of relationship with God and Jesus came to restore that

We are meant to live in community – in relationships with others

A) And we have been redeemed by God to be a part of his mission – impacting others for his kingdom

B) I agree whole heartedly with Popular NY Pastor Jon Tyson – “If Christ is actually formed in us, we will be led away from self, and toward others.”

“True spiritual formation will drive us beyond self, and into the heart of the church.” Jon Tyson

C) Peter is modeling this: He is in his 70’s his tent is unraveling.

1) But it's clear where his energy and his focus are--- not in himself.

D) Time to kick back and just focus on me – No! His focus is on others.

It is interesting to me that four times here in chapter 1 Peter uses the word “your”

A) And 11 times the pronoun you – as an indication – his focus is on others

B) A few examples: verse 11 “For so an entrance will be supplied to you abundantly.”

Verse 12, “For this reason I will not be negligent to remind you of these things, though you know and are established in them.”

Verse 13, “I think it's right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up.”

C) Peter is thinking about others. Peter is living for the benefit of others.

1) His heart is to encourage/ build up his fellow believers

And this is what is on his heart v.13 to stir you up by reminding you,

A) To Stir up = to arouse or awaken from sleep!
1) To shake them out of their comfort zones

D) To arouse their minds to action – to put their faith into practice.

E) Live out their Faith – sense of urgency

1) Come on get out of bed you are going to be late.

The writer of the book of Hebrews – jumps on this same idea

²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as is the manner of some, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching. Hebrews 10:24-25

A) As you see the day approaching – what Day? The coming of the Lord –

B) Stir up – awaken and arouse one another to love and good works!

C) Guys- my heart is consumed with a sense of urgency RIGHT NOW

1) we are living on borrowed time – make it count

The way that Peter seeks to stir them up is by reminding them

A) He mentions this idea of reminding them – 3 times V.12, 13, 15

B) He is reminding them of things they already know! V.12 “You already know these things. You're established in the present truth.”

C) Why do we need reminders? – We forget!!

I can't tell you how many times I have been reading my Bible – I come across a passage – that I have underlined or highlighted.

A) I know the passage – I know the truth –

B) But I forgot about it -but it is exactly what I need to be reminded of for the situation I find myself in

C) It is like – OH YAY – I forgot about that.

We need to be reminded because we are forgetful

A) And we need to be reminded because we are easily distracted.

B) It is easy for us to get off course in life – focused on the wrong things

1) Headed in the wrong direction

C) We need constant reminders of what is important – like a captain of a ship checking his nautical gauge

1) Reminders help us to keep the main thing the main thing

D) Peter sought to encourage and build up others by reminding them of things they already knew.

You want to leave a legacy that outlives you?

A) Devout yourself to others – teaching sharing – reminding others and stirring them up in the faith

B) Think about my dad died at 87 – My dad never preached a sermon from a pulpit –

C) he preached many sermons with his life – he left a legacy that out lived him

D) I have men in this church who tell me all the time – I MISS YOUR DAD

1) Discipled them

E) Others he encouraged them

Men at CCCM – same – their lives have been radically impacted by my dad

A) Invested time energy resources in people and in the Kingdom of God

B) He has left a legacy that has outlived him!

C) There's a great Native American proverb that says, "When you were born, you cried and the world rejoiced; make sure that you live your life in such a manner that when you die, the world cries and you rejoice."

D) That is how you leave a legacy that outlives you!

Gospel

Living for others is the example given to us by Jesus – He left the place of comfort in Heaven and came here – as a man – to serve – Give his life