

24 Hours to Live
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Introduction: What is really first in your life?

A. Many people have learned to live a contradiction, they confess one thing but live another.

1. How many Christians say they put the Lord first? (**Matt 6:33**)
2. You come to know what a Christian believes by what he does! (**Jas 2:18**)
 - a. What happens when there is conflict, what do we choose?
 - b. Children see it in their parents. "But we have been members of the church!"

B. In order to live this life as we should, we must have a clear view of the end of life. (**Rom 13:11-14**)

1. Have you thought of death?
2. "We have not learned how to live until we treat every day as doomsday".

I. How Do We Determine Our Priorities?

A. In an emergency, we quickly bring our priorities to the front. (**Acts 27:18-19**)

1. Ex. An explosion of sparks late at night. Must plan quickly!
2. How much time do I have? What must be saved first?

B. How do we choose each day? We all live in a burning house? (**Heb 9:27**)

1. How would you list these things in your priorities? Consider these areas: **Job, Prayer, Worship, Entertainment, Personal Work, Bible Study, Rest and Food.**
2. Have you ever thought of this? Consider this powerful illustration.

II. What if you had 24 Hours to Live?

A. There would be some things you would consider **very unimportant**.

1. **Your Job, School** - No going to work on this day. Not a second thought about it.
2. **Your entertainment** - No football on TV, no sports leagues, etc.
3. **Resting and Eating** - No, I am dying. My time must count.

B. Other things you would consider as **very important**.

1. Some may **pray** more on this day than in the last month. If you are not a Christian, you would become one and have this privilege. (**Acts 2:37-38**)
 - a. What would you pray for? Bad habits? Missed opportunities?
 - b. No one will say: "I do not know how to pray!"
2. **Worship services** take on a very deep meaning.
 - a. You will not miss services on this day! In fact you may not go home.
 - b. What meaning will you get out of: **Singing (Eph 5:19); The Lord's Supper(Matt 26:26-28);Preaching (2 Cor 4:13-14),Giving (1 Cor 16:2)**
 - c. No clock watching on this day, no daydreaming or playing with children.
3. **Personal work** will have a tremendous urgency.
 - a. You want to work with family and friends, but there is not enough time!
 - b. You deal with those grudges that you have nursed. (**Matt 6:14-15**)
4. **Bible study** is important, but not as important.

- a. This takes something that you do not have ---- time!
- b. You will be rushing to others to find out what you never tried to before.

III. What if you had 7 days to live?

- A. More time will make a difference. The same things are **unimportant**.
- B. Your priorities will change in those things that are **very important**.
 1. **Bible Study** move to the top. You now have time for application.
 2. You are active in **personal work** as never before. You no longer sit on the sidelines with the lost or with church problems. You will find great joy in this work. “Why have I not done this before?”
 3. You will not fail to **worship** with Christians on Wednesday night. In fact you will meet with Christians in the homes to study and pray. Your life has never been richer and closer to God

IV. What if you had one year to live?

- A. Now you have time for radical changes in those **very important** areas.
 1. **Worship** now moves to the top of the list. Those who worship in time become like God. You will have perfect attendance, no more “hit and miss.”
 2. In **personal work** you truly will have influenced many in 1 year.
 3. In **Bible study** you will have gained tremendously. You may have qualified to be an elder or deacon. You may be preaching or teaching classes. Other will be coming to you for answers!
 4. In your **prayer** life, you will have influenced many.
- B. There will be things that become **mildly important**.
 1. In your **job** you work faithfully. (**Col 3:22-23**)
 2. The other areas remain **unimportant**.
- C. What is your life about? Why do men let these unimportant things get in their way?
Let us consider one more situation.

V. What if you had a full 20 years to live?

- A. The worldly man will think: “That’s a long time, 2030!”
- B. Here are the priorities of the worldly:
 1. “I must keep seeking to make the most money in my **job**.”
 2. “I need time for **entertainment**. Weekends are all I have.”
 3. “Look I need time for **resting** and **eating**. I am only human!”
 4. “One **prayer** a day is plenty. That’s over 20,000 times in 20 years!”
 5. **Bible study, worship** and **giving** have little meaning. “I love Jesus as much as the next man!”
 6. **Personal work** is for someone else.

VI. Consider some mistakes of this series.

- A. We do not know the time we have. (**1 Thess 5:1-7**)
- B. We must live each day as our last.

Conclusion: Are you ready to die? (**Rev 20:12-14**)
(Sermon Adapted from Max Dawson)