



WEEKLY SERMON

Volume No. 2023 Issue No. 36
October 1, 2023

Sunday October 1, 2023
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Message: The Christian Home

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Text: Isaiah 38:1-5, I Timothy 5:3-8

In I Corinthians 15:58 we read, "Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

There are many things that a true believer ought to be (**B**).

1. **B Holy**: In I Peter 1:15 we read, "But as he which hath called you is holy, so be ye holy in all manner of conversation." The Godly who know and follow the Lord must be different from the worldly who ignore Him. Remember we are the only Bibles sinners may read. Instead of feeling strange because we can't be like them, be challenged to show them the difference.
2. **B Doers**: In James 1:22 we read, "Be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves:..." Put it this way. We are to walk the talk of our faith and not just talk the talk of our faith. For when we walk the talk we have become doers of the word. Do not be a "do nothing Christian."
3. **B Kind**: In Ephesians 4:32 we read, "And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." Kindness to others should be a great part of your testimony to others. Kindness must reign among believers as we love each other and share in the problems of our church family.
4. **B Thankful**: In Psalm 100:4 we read, "Enter into his gates with thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him and bless his name." We ought to be thankful for the multiplied mercies of God every day. **Be thankful** for your redemption through the death of Jesus Christ. **Be thankful** if all your family is saved. **Be thankful** in the daily provision the Lord provides for you. **Be thankful** for your church, your pastor, and for every member of your church family. **Be thankful** for the freedoms we still have to live our lives for our Saviour.
5. **Be Merciful**: In Luke 6:30 we read, "Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful." Where would we be without the mercy of God? Be sure to show your loving and helpful attitude toward others. Your love and concern for others will show forth the kindness of the Lord's mercy.
6. **B An Example**: In I Timothy 4:12 we read, "But be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation; in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity." We need to demonstrate the joys of Christianity, showing the difference Christ makes in our lives. Wherever your life touches your neighborhood be sure it shines with the love of Christ attracting them to be saved. Live in a way that others may follow you and desire what you have in Christ.

7. **B Strong**: in Ephesians 6:10 we read, “**Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might.**” As a believer we are to stand with Christ on the side of right and defend righteousness.

8. **B Steadfast**: In I Corinthians 15:58 we read, “**Therefore my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord; forasmuch as ye know that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.**” Believers must stand fast in the faith delivered to the saints.

9. **B Fruitful**: In Colossians 1:10 we read, “**That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.**” By example and precept we must preach and live the life Christ desires for us.

May the (B's) above be a challenge to you this week as you live your Christian life 24/7.

Here is an interesting story about “**The Nail.**”

As the story goes, they built a new church building and people came from far and wide to see it. They admired its beauty! Up on the roof, a little nail heard the people praising everything about the lovely structure-except the nail! No one even knew he was there, and he became angry and jealous. "If I am that insignificant, nobody will miss me if I quit!"

So the nail then released its hold, slid down the roof, and fell in the mud. That night it rained and rained. Soon, the shingle that had no nail blew away, and the roof began to leak. The water streaked the walls, and the beautiful murals. The plaster began to fall, the carpet was stained, and the pulpit Bible was ruined by water. All this because a little nail decided to quit!

But what of the nail! While holding the shingle, it was obscure but it was also useful. Buried in the mud it was just as obscure, but now it was useless and would soon be eaten up by rust!

The moral of the story is that **EVERY MEMBER IS IMPORTANT TO THE CHURCH.** You may, like the nail, feel obscure at times, but just like the nail, your absence is felt. When you are not present for worship, in some way the body of Christ hurts. We are ALL a part of the Body of Christ.

In *His* Amazing Grace
Pastor David Miklas

Quotes on PRAYER

1. “Prayer does not fit us for the greater work; prayer is the greater work.” - **Oswald Chambers.**

2. “No man is greater than his prayer life. The pastor who is not praying is playing; the people who are not praying are straying. We have many organizers, but few agonizers; many players and payers, few pray- ers; many singers, few clingers; lots of pastors, few wrestlers; many fears, few tears; much fashion, little passion; many interferers, few intercessors; many writers, but few fighters. Failing here, we fail everywhere.”- **Leonard Ravenhill**

3. “Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays.” – **Soren Kierkegaard**

4. “A day without prayer is a day without blessing, and a life without prayer is a life without power.” – **Edwin Harvey**

"Set Thy House in Order"

INTRODUCTION: For this message on the Christian Home would you turn in your Bibles to **Isaiah 38:1-5** where we have the story of the sickness, prayer and healing of King Hezekiah.

"In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. (2) Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, (3) And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. (4) Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, (5) Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years."

Notice again in **verse 1** what Isaiah the prophet said to King Hezekiah, "Thus said the Lord, set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live."

Suppose God would say to you some day this week, "set thine house in order; for thou shalt die and not live." Sobering thought isn't it?

It may be that some Christian has already crossed the line and sinned, the "**Sin unto Death**" and you are facing death in a matter of days.

It may be that you are still in your sins, and you have "**blasphemed the holy Spirit**" and you can not repent and be saved. Proverbs 29:1 says, "**He that being often reproveth hardeneth his neck shall suddenly be destroyed and that without remedy.**"

It may be you have really done nothing wrong; you are even growing in the Lord. But right now you may have less than two weeks to set your house in order. These are sobering words.

God told King Hezekiah, who was one of the **FOUR GOOD KINGS** of Judah, to set his house in order, notice **verse 3**,

"And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.

Maybe today you need to set your **LIFE** in order.

Perhaps, there was a day when you walked with God.

You began everyday in prayer and the Word of God.
You sought opportunely for Christian service and did serve the Lord.
Your heart thrilled at the name of Jesus, and
You had power for soul winning.

But now you have grown **CARELESS**, **PRAYERLESS**, and **POWERLESS** and you need to **REPENT** of your negligence, and get right with God.

Perhaps, in your life there is now an attitude of worldliness, you feel more at home in front of the TV then you do in the house of God. In James 4:4 we read,

"Know you not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? Whosoever, therefore, will be a friend of the world is an enemy of God."

To set your life in order perhaps you need to **REPENT** of an attitude of worldliness. You need to take the Word of God and cleanse your mind and soul.

Perhaps you need to straighten out some misunderstanding you have with another Christian brother. How sad to see the cause of Christ hindered by selfish carnal differences

among those in the family of God!

My friend, if you do not get your **LIFE** in order **NOW** it may never be done. There is no certainty that there will be a tomorrow. Remember from Hebrews 9:27 we read, "**It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.**"

Here is a point, "**WHEN HEZEKIAH PREPARED HIMSELF FOR DEATH, HE WAS THEN PREPARED FOR LIFE.**" Whether you are to die or to live, you should set your house in order.

Together, we have been discussing the need to set our lives in order. But, I wonder how many of us need to set our **PERSONAL HOMES** in order.

In Psalms 127:1 we read, "**Except the Lord build the House, they labor in vain that build it.**"

In Colossians 3:18-21 we read "**Wives, submit yourselves unto your own husbands, as it is fit in the Lord. (19) Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them. (20) Children, obey your parents in all things: for this is well pleasing unto the Lord. (21) Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged.**"

Hold it, maybe you have to stop to ponder, "Lord, if I had only two weeks left,

Would I live for my husband more?

Would I love my wife more?

Would I love and obey my parents more?

Would I encourage my Children more?

How would I prepare for the future for my wife and children?

What would you need to re-establish in the molding or building of your home. Maybe you need to examine the spiritual **FOUNDATION** of your life. In I Corinthians 3:11 we are told, no "... **other foundation can no man lay then that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ.**"

The sure, tried, and tested **FOUNDATION** is Jesus Christ. If God would say "**set thine house in order, you are going to die and not live,**"

DO YOU KNOW BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT YOU ARE ON YOUR WAY TO HEAVEN?

Can you stand and testify that there was a day and a time and a place you by faith accepted Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour?

Perhaps, you need to get your soul right with God. You **need to accept Christ as your personal Savior.**

As important as establishing **MORALITY, BUDGETS, EDUCATION** and all the other finer things of life, it will all be in vain, if the foundation is not founded upon Jesus Christ.

Now listen carefully, how many of you adult parents and grandparents reading this message have presented the claims of Christ to your children and you know for sure this very moment, they have personally accepted Him as their Saviour too. Folks,

You could build the most expensive home and equip it with all the finest things money can buy.

You could prepare your children to live in this life, with all the sports and entertainment and education possible and not prepare them to live in eternity. **IF YOU HAVE NOT YOU HAVE DONE THEM THE WORST POSSIBLE DEED YOU COULD DO ANYONE!**

Oh, my how many parents are doing just that, preparing their children to live only for the **NOW** and not for **TOMORROW** on the foundation of Jesus Christ.?

Maybe some time this very day or week, as a parent or as a grandparent, you need to turn off the TV, put down the newspaper and go to your children either in person or by phone and lead them to Christ if they are not already saved.

What is it in your home that you need to set in order?

Maybe you need to establish or re-establish a **FAMILY ALTAR**, a family prayer and Bible reading time.

Maybe you need to establish a daily prayer time as you pray for each member of the family by name. Oh, how many godly parents sent their children to Sunday school and to school every day but don't spend any time praying over their needs. **And then you wonder why things go wrong in their lives.**

Maybe you need to establish a **CONSISTENT** daily walk with the Lord, where your **walk** is the same as your **Sunday Talk**. If we are going to turn out children who are going to live for the Lord your **TALK** ought to be the same as your **WALK**.

OUR CHILDREN WILL DO WHAT THEY SEE US DOING FAR MORE THEN THEY WILL DO WHAT WE TELL THEM TO DO. By the way, they will out do us in the wrong more than they will out do us in the right.

Maybe you need to become consistent in Sunday School and Church both morning and evening as well as for Wednesday prayer time.

I could go on with other areas. But I am making my point, if during this moment a messenger from God would say to you "Set thine house in order for thou shalt die and not live."

**What changes would you make in your life?
What changes would you make in your home?**

As important as the matter of giving priority to the **PRESENT** development of our families is, it is equally important to give attention to the **FUTURE** of our families.

Now it's going to appear that I am changing my subject in this message but stay with me.

In the book of **I Timothy chapter 5**, the Apostle Paul gives us instruction on how to minister to various groups in the church.

In **verse 1-2** we read, "Rebuke not an elder, but intreat him as a father; and the younger men as brethren; (2) The elder women as mothers; the younger as sisters, with all purity."

**In the church the older men are to be revered as fathers.
The young men are to be treated as brothers in Christ.
The older women are to be loved, honored, and esteemed.
The younger women are to be treated as sisters.**

In **verses 3-16** we have Paul's instructions concerning those we call the **WIDOWS**. Throughout the Old and New Testaments **WIDOWS along with foreigners and orphans** are viewed as special objects of God's mercy. As early as Acts 6 the church had established a charitable outreach to **WIDOWS**.

In James 1:27 we read, "Pure religion and undefiled before God and the Father is this: to visit the fatherless and widows in their affliction ..."

Without going into great deal, there appears to be **FOUR** kinds of widows listed here.

1. The WIDOW Indeed: verse 3, 5, 9-10. "Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. (5) Now she that is a widow indeed, and desolate, trusteth in God, and continueth in supplications and prayers night and day. (9) Let not a widow be taken into the number under threescore years old, having been the wife of one man, (10) Well reported of for good works; if she have brought up children, if she have lodged strangers, if she have washed the saints' feet, if she have

relieved the afflicted, if she have diligently followed every good work.” These were truly widows. They were left with **NO ONE** to care for them but God and His people.

Notice **verse 5**, such a godly person, after the death of her husband, dedicated herself to the service of the lord. It has been my experience that godly widows are "**spiritual powerhouses**" in the church, especially in terms of prayer encouragement.

2. **WIDOWS with Children:** **verse 4**, “But if any widow have children or nephews, let them learn first to shew piety at home, and to requite their parents: for that is good and acceptable before God.”

3. **WIDOWS living in Pleasure:** **verse 6-7**, “But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth. (7) And these things give in charge, that they may be blameless.”

4. **WIDOWS young enough to remarry and raise a family:** **verses 11-14**. In **verse 14** we read, “I will therefore that the younger women marry, bear children, guide the house, give none occasion to the adversary to speak reproachfully.”

Now notice carefully **verse 8**, “But if any provide not for his own, and specially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.” The conditional "if" in **verse 8** implies that there were those who were trying to escape their personal responsibilities to their aged parents.

Please also note the word "**PROVIDETH**." It means to "think before hand." Taking thought in advance and then to prepare for the need for-seen.

Planning for the family's future needs is **NOW**, not after death. Okay, let's face it. You are going to die, and you need to get some issues in place. In Luke 14:28 our Lord tells men that we have a great responsibility, “For which of you, intending to build a tower, sitteth not down first, and counteth the cost, whether he have sufficient to finish it?”

The average home today is so busy making a living, going about their daily business of family, work, pleasure and maybe some church, but has not taken one thought about what will happen if suddenly a parent or more particularly the man of the house should die.

You probably know that statistics indicate the woman will outlive the man by seven to nine years or more. In many cases this leaves the woman with a great deal of unanswered questions not only about the funeral but also about financial needs, etc.

God forbid, but it has happened, that both parents die and leave children intestate, meaning without a will, etc. In this case the State will step in and decide for you what will happen to your children and your estate.

Now as men we have been given the job of securing the “**tower**” that being our homes. The meaning of these verses tells me that we (men) are to think beforehand of the needs of our family and make arrangements for those eventual needs to be met.

First: Your wife and family need to know they have **LEGAL** protection. Here you need to have four documents in place.

1. A **Living Will** protects you as well as your wife and family. A **Living Will**, properly executed, can relieve you and your family of mental and financial torment. In laymen's terms a **Living Will** states, “Feed me and water me but do not breathe for me. If I cannot breath on my own, I'm dead. Let me go to Heaven.” For all intent and purposes, in this modern society, you need a **Living Will**.
2. A **Power of Attorney** to pass on to someone of your choice who could speak for you when you are unable to care for yourself.

3. **A Last Will and Testament:** If you have dependent children, you need a **Last Will and Testament**. You do not want the state deciding who will rear your children or where they will be trained or what spiritual training they may or may not receive. You need to determine those wishes, and the only way to ensure that your wishes are followed is to have a properly executed **Last Will and Testament**. But you still need a **Last Will and Testament** even if you do not have any children because you need a vehicle to "catch the overflow or spillover" from your most important piece of financial security-a Living Trust.
4. **A Living Trust:** The **Living Trust** is where you put all of your hard assets. Upon your death, there is no need to transfer assets. You died, the Trust did not. With a Trust, there is no probate, no prying eyes, and a great reduction of your tax liability. The **Living Trust** is also a tool that can take you one step further from libel suits. Depending on the size of your estate, this document can save you thousands of dollars and many hours of anguish.

Second: Your wife and family need to know they have **FINANCIAL** protection. No one I know has ever died having too much insurance.

Because we have been given a mandate from God to take care of your wife as long as she lives, you need to provide a lifetime income for her.

How do we do this? Quite simply you can provide lifetime income for your wife and family by purchasing **TERM** insurance. What ever the case gather information, talk with people, and get it done.

Third: Your wife and family needs to know they are debt –free. The average American family is in debt as never before. There are many points here but for the time allow me to focus upon three principles:

1. You must be right with God in this matter of money. You must be a tither and offering giver. If you are wrong in this area, no one can help you. You cannot steal from God and expect Him to fund you. In Proverbs 3:9 we read, "**Honour the LORD with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase.**"
2. You must stop creating new debt! You must stop using credit as a way to live. The best way to do this is to cut-up and destroy your credit cards.
3. You must have a budget and you must stay on that budget. A budget is a tool that stops you from spending money that does not belong to you! You need some help in this area, Get it.

Now back to our original text found in **Isaiah 38:1** where Isaiah the prophet came to the King and said, "**Thus said the Lord, set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.**" Let me leave you with THREE concluding biblical principles.

First: We have no control over our life's end.

In Ecclesiastes 8:8 we read, "**There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither power in the day of death.**"

God has appointed the boundary of our life and we have no control over it.

Second: Scripture teaches us to leave things to our loved ones.

In Proverbs 13:22 we read, "**A good man leaveth an INHERITANCE to his child's children: and the wealth of the sinner laid up for the just.**"

In Proverbs 19:14 we read, "**Houses and riches are the INHERITANCE of fathers: and a prudent wife is from the LORD.**"

Third: Estate planning, including your will, etc. should include your final act of worship through giving. In Matthew 6:19-21 Jesus said, **“Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: (20) But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: (21) For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”**

TODAY! Remember this from II Corinthians 6:2, **“...behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.”**

If God has spoken to your heart after reading the sermon **"Set Thy House in Order"** then right now talk to God about what He has spoken to you.

Do you have the assurance that one day you will go to heaven? If you have no assurance that you know Jesus Christ, then I trust you will decide to accept Him as your personal Savior. The Bible tells us in

Acts 16:31, **“...Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved...”**

Romans 10:13, **“For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved.”**

This prayer is here for those who need to ask Jesus to be their personal Savior: **“I do want to go to Heaven. I know I am a sinner, and I do believe Jesus Christ died for me. I realize I cannot buy this great salvation, nor can I earn it. Knowing Jesus died on the cross and arose from the grave to pay my sin debt and to purchase my salvation, I do now trust Him as my Savior, and from this moment on I am completely depending on Him for my salvation.”**

If you made the decision to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Savior let me know? Please send an e-mail to, pdmikBBM@aol.com and I will send you some literature that will help you in your Christian life.

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