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THE SURE WORD By Jonnie Hutchison

“LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING”

“In this world there is nothing certain except death and taxes.” This statement, attributed by most to Benjamin Franklin, expresses a truth regarding the certainty of death. The Hebrew writer expresses this truth in the words, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment” (Hebrews 9:27). Death is an unavoidable appointment that each of us must keep this side of the judgment. According to the CDC and other sources, nearly 3 million people die each year in this country. That is almost 8,000 a day. With the possible exception of suicide, none of us know when we will keep our appointment with death. But what if you did know that tomorrow would be the day of your death? What would you do differently today?

A few years ago, country music singer Tim McGraw, released a song entitled, *Live Like You Were Dying*. The song was about a man in his early 40’s who was diagnosed with a terminal disease and the positive changes he made in his life as a result. One phrase from the song reads, "Someday I hope you get the chance To live like you were dyin'." The fact is that each of us should be living each day of our lives like we were dying because in reality we face the possibility of death each day. The Bible tells us, “Whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away” (James 4:14). Yes, death is certain, but because **the time of death** is uncertain, we should each live now like we were dying. That means making the necessary changes in life to be able to face death with confidence. That confidence comes from knowing that one is in the right relationship with God. That relationship is only possible through the blood of Jesus which is applied to one who is willing to believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sin (Acts 17:30), confess faith in Christ (Romans 10:9-10), by being baptized into Christ for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38) and then, living each day faithful to God (Revelation 2:10).

Dear reader, are you living like you were dying? May we help you? Email us at greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org or call 270-978-7569. Visit us online at greenplainchurchofchrist.org. For additional Bible study visit the Gospel Broadcasting Network at gbntv.org. Worship with us Sunday’s at 10:00 am for Bible classes, 10:45 am for morning worship and 6:00 pm for evening worship. Thanks for taking the time to read this article.