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THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

HOW BRIEF LIFE IS

My mother, who lives with my sister in Alabama, is 92 years old. While she has had some health issues, her mind is still sharp. We facetime with her on a regular basis using her iPad which she bought for herself. To say that we enjoy these face-to-face meetings in this time of pandemic is an understatement. My mother has been a faithful Christian for many years serving the Lord in a variety of ways. Along with my father, who died several years ago, mom raised two boys who both became gospel preachers and one daughter who is the wife of an elder in the Lord's church. This influence has been passed down to grandchildren and greatgrandchildren.

The point of these personal observations is simply to remind us that even if one surpasses the allotted lifespan given by God, life is brief at best. Psalms 90:10 teaches, "The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away." The book of Job describes the brevity of life in the words, "Now my days are swifter than a runner; They flee away, they see no good. They pass by like swift ships, Like an eagle swooping on its prey." (Job 9:25-26). The New Testament asks, "For what is your life?" and then answers, "It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away" (James 4:14). These passages emphasize an especially important point - since life is so brief there is but a limited time to prepare for what comes next.

The Bible teaches that physical death is not the end of man's existence. Death is simply the separation of the spirit from the body (James 2:26). The body will go to the grave, but not so the spirit (Eccl. 2:7). At the second coming of Christ all the dead will be raised and each of us will stand before the judgment seat of Christ (John 5:28-29; 2 Corinthians 5:10). There will then be an eternal separation of the lost and the saved (Matthew 25:46).

Life is too brief and uncertain to delay one's preparation for the day of one's death. Let us help you make that preparation. Call 270-97807569 or email greenplain@greenplainchurchofchrist.org. Join us for worship each Sunday morning at 10:00 am and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 pm. Visit us online at greenplainchurchofchrist.org and watch videos on a variety of Bible subjects at gbntv.org. thanks for reading and may God bless you consistent with His divine will.