

Is Your House In Order?

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Scripture Reading: Isaiah 38:1-8

(also recorded in 2 Kings 20:1-11)

Introduction:

What was God telling Hezekiah in verse one? What was the house being spoken of?

- Was it his body? Possibly partially.
 1. Any comforts desired or anything to satisfy.
 2. Last wishes concerning his body – ceremonies, burial etc.
- Or was it his life and the affairs of his life? Probably more so than his natural body.
 1. Things to be set in order concerning the kingdom, concerning family, concerning his estate, things to be done or undone.
 2. Things he needed or wanted to say or do before death.
- The Lord was telling Hezekiah to take care of anything in his life that he wanted addressed before his life ended.
- Is it not the same with most human beings? Many people go to extremes to set things in a certain order before death comes in preparation for when death comes. A few may even spend more time on such planning and preparation (so called “getting their house in order”) than they do on living their life, while there may be many that give no thought or preparation for end of life but simply live in the moment or for the moment.
- The scriptures teach that all are to prepare (put our house in order) for the end of this earthly life by seeking and establishing a personal relationship with our Lord (to get saved) – the God that sent word to Hezekiah.
- The scriptures also teach us that we should seek to put and keep our house (human body and life) in order as we live in this life.

Considering our human body and life as our house:

Considering this human body and the life we live in this body as our house, it seems to me it would be beneficial for each of us to ask often if not daily, “Is my house in order?” This question should be asked prayerfully and spiritually in consideration of our relationship to our Creator.

- Consider God’s plan and desire for the human body He created.
 - The scriptures refer to the human body as a dwelling place (a house or tabernacle – see 2 Corinthians 5:1,4 & 2 Peter 1:13-14.) It is the dwelling place in this life of each person’s eternal soul.
 - God desires that each person’s body be His temple. Read 1 Corinthians 6:15-20. In particular 1 Corinthians 6:19 teaches that the body of a saved person “*is the temple of the Holy Ghost which is in you, which ye have of God, and ye are not your own.*”
- Consider God’s desire and plan for our human life as our house:
 - To seek the Lord for salvation (Isaiah 55:6-7; Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17; John 6:28-29; Acts 16:31)
 - To seek the kingdom of God (not only heaven but also His earthly kingdom – be a part of His church) (Acts 2:37-47)

- To serve God (Joshua 24:15; Hebrews 12:28; Romans 12:1)
- To seek and do God's will (Romans 12:2, John 4:34)
- To labor in and finish our part in and for the cause of God (John 17:4; 2 Timothy 4:6-7)
- To perform this labor looking forward to the finish joyfully (Acts 20:24; 2 Timothy 4:8; 1 Peter 1:8)
- To live a Christian life – endeavor to be Christ-like (Philippians 3:13-14)

Who then needs to get and keep their house in order spiritually? Of course the short answer to this question is everyone! However, let's consider this question in groups.

The Lost

Lost persons have not yet started their spiritual house. Perhaps some ground work has been laid and materials assembled but for it to be established and constructed the lost person must first be saved.

- Made accountable for sin thru the Holy Spirit – feel the condemnation of God (spiritual separation or death) (Romans 3:23, Romans 5:12, Romans 6:23)
- Acknowledge the conviction of sin (2 Corinthians 7:10)
- Turn to God seeking Him in faith – “Repent and Believe” (Matthew 3:1-2; 4:17; John 6:28-29; Acts 16:31)
- This seeking of the Lord must occur when He draws through His Spirit (John 6:44,65; John 12:32; Isaiah 55:6)
- Until that trouble (conviction, Godly sorrow) is replaced by sweet peace (Romans 5:1, Philippians 4:7)

The Redeemed of God

After being saved to get their house in order the redeemed of God need to:

- Give thanks to God and acknowledge what He has done for them (Psalm 107:1-2; Matthew 3:8)
- Follow the Lord's command to be scripturally baptized. (Matthew 28:19; Acts 2:38; Acts 8:36-38)
- Be obedient to the Lord's commandments and will. (John 14:15; Romans 12:2)

Church Members

Church members need to order their house by:

- Seeking to grow in grace and knowledge of the Lord through prayer, meditation and study. (2 Peter 3:18; 1 Thessalonians 5:17; 1 Timothy 2:8; Philippians 4:8; Ephesians 6:17)
- Continuing to give thanks to God and share their testimony and spiritual experiences (Psalm 107:1-2; Acts 22:1-15; Acts 26:1-23)
- Serve the Lord in and through His church. (The Acts of the Apostles)
- Do good unto others and seek the welfare of brothers and sisters in their church and sister churches (Matthew 7:12; Galatians 6:10)

- Protect and promote the gospel and doctrine of Jesus Christ and share the gospel with the lost with a desire to see them saved (the commission (Matthew 28:19-20) was given to the church)
- Love the Lord and love one another as He has loved us. (John 15:12, 1 Corinthians 13; James 2:8)
- In the spirit of that love take care of the business of the Lord's church (1 Corinthians 14:40)

Deacons

Deacons need to order their house or have their house in order by

- Being a man of honest report and filled with the Holy Spirit (Acts 6:3)
- Possessing a willingness and ability to serve the Lord's church in secular, business and service matters (Acts 6:3)
- Endeavoring to exhibit the qualifications given in 1 Timothy 3:8-13

Preachers

Of all the afore mentioned groups preachers especially must labor to put in order and maintain an orderly house. Some musts for preachers to have their house in order

- A divine call to preach the gospel of Christ. (John 15:16; Romans 10:15)
- A burden to do the specific work that the Lord has called each man to. (Ephesians 4:11-12)
- A willingness to seek and follow God's will for their life and ministry. (Philippians 3:4-14)
- To guard their life against anything that would bring reproach upon the Lord's cause or the ministry in which God has placed him. (Ephesians 4:1)
- Pray and study the Bible seeking the guidance of the Holy Spirit to learn and then rightly divide the word in the message God gives him to preach. (2 Timothy 2:15)
- While the man of God can and should use other available resources to study and learn, when he stands to preach he should preach from the Bible only guided by the Holy Spirit of God. (2 Timothy 4:1-2)

God calls men to different works (Ephesians 4:11-12) prophets (preachers in general), evangelists (primarily outreach, especially to the lost), pastors and teachers (bishops or under-shepherds) and missionaries (some combination of all those identified in Ephesians 4:11)

Pastors

Of the above group the pastors/teachers especially must keep their house in order by adhering to the qualifications listed for bishops (or pastors or elders) found in 1 Timothy 3:1-7 and Titus 1:6-9. In addition to these qualifications the pastor should:

- Always be conscious of the example he is to the church he serves as well as other churches.
- He is being watched by members of the communities in which he lives and serves.
- He needs to always demonstrate respect for the Lord's cause, the Lord's church and the high calling in which he serves (in and out of the pulpit) in his behavior, in his speech, in his appearance, and in the manner in which he conducts his life.

The wives of pastors, preachers and deacons:

While not called or elected to the mentioned positions, there is extra pressure on the wives of men who serve the Lord and His church in these offices and capacities. The main additional visible aspect in the lives of these special women (not already mentioned for other groups in which they fall) to have their house in order is to encourage and support their husbands. A wife can help make or break a man's ministry or deaconship!

The Lord's Church

It should be the sincere desire of each member of the Lord's Church for the local body to which they belong to be ahouse that in order. The scripture teaches us to *"Let all things be done decently and in order."* (1 Corinthians 14:40)

For the local body of the Lord's Church to be in order the pastor, the deacons and each church member need to strive to have their own personal house in order!

1 Corinthians 12:12-31 teaches that each member has his/her respective place and the importance of each filling that place. The chapter closes by instructing us to earnestly covet (and seek) the best gifts. But Paul follows that statement with this one, *"yet shew I unto you a more excellent way."*

That more excellent way is "Christian, Godly love" as described in 1 Corinthians 13.

Other Questions:

How do I get my house in order? How do I keep it in order?

The scripture reading provides a great starting place to answer these questions. It is apparent that Hezekiah knew the Lord evidenced by the actions of his life to this point, that he knew to pray and how to pray. It begins with prayer asking the correct things of the Lord and asking in the proper way. That is what Hezekiah did, that is how I must start. My prayer is that the points and scripture references in this lesson will provide at least a guideline that being accompanied by the leadership of the Lord will help each of us get and keep our spiritual house in order.

I will leave us with this question:

"Is your house in order?"