

"ONE LIFE, ONE CHANCE"

Jonathan Landis

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James 1:9-11 NIV

The brother in humble circumstances ought to take pride in his high position. [10] But the one who is rich should take pride in his low position, because he will pass away like a wild flower. [11] For the sun rises with scorching heat and withers the plant; its blossom falls and its beauty is destroyed. In the same way, the rich man will fade away even while he goes about his business.

The point of this is not that having money and stuff is evil and will kill you. The driving point of this scripture is that life is short. Many people spend their lives running after more money and more stuff... they are never satisfied, and then they die. Many people waste their lives chasing things, but God has called us to make something more of our lives. After all we only have ONE LIFE to live.

I. You Have ONE LIFE

As a teenager you have the majority your life ahead of you. It feels like life will last forever, and with God's help all of us here will have long, healthy lives. But some day every one of our lives will come to an end.

1. Life is SHORT, Compared to Eternity.

ASK: How long do you think most people live in America???

The life expectancy in the US during the Census of the year 2000 was 77.1 years old. ☺ I guess they give us those numbers so we can know, that is when the average American can count on kicking the bucket.

Somewhere between 70-80 years old is a fairly long healthy American life. If you work real hard to get a lot of earthly stuff, you may get to use it for 80 years. And then you'll die, like the rich man mentioned in James... and where will that leave you??? A dead man can't use money or stuff.

Psalm 103:13-16 NIV

**As a father has compassion on his children,
so the Lord has compassion on those who fear him;
[14] for he knows how we are formed,
he remembers that we are dust.
[15] As for man, his days are like grass,
he flourishes like a flower of the field;
[16] the wind blows over it and it is gone,
and its place remembers it no more.**

Begin singing or play music "All we are is dust in the wind..."

Ask: What about ETERNITY??? How long is eternity???

2. Eternity is forever!!!

For a Christian that means you have all of eternity with God to look forward to. What an awesome promise!!! Life will be awesome and we will be able to hang out with God, and worship, and eat with Jesus. I'm really hoping we can walk up to the great men and women from Bible days and ask them about their stories.

I can't wait to meet the Apostle Paul who was once a killer of Christians, but God changed his life. He went on to preach the Gospel to a huge part of the known world. He was willing to be beaten, stoned, and put in jail for Jesus. He even died for Jesus. Now there's a guy who had his priorities straight. Paul didn't live for things of this world, but for the things of God.

I look forward to meeting Mary Magdalene, Mary (Jesus' mom) and John the beloved who were there when Jesus was crucified and saw it all. I want to ask them what it was like to see our King die by the hands of men. I want to ask what they knew what Jesus was doing on the cross. If they understood that He was rescuing us from Hell by His own sacrifice. Most of the other disciples ran away, because they were afraid they might be killed too, but these few stayed and watched it all. These disciples had their priorities in order... they didn't even let fear for their own lives keep them from following Jesus to the cross.

Most of all I look forward to seeing Jesus. I love Him with all my heart and soul. I will live for Him, and I would die for Him if I get that opportunity. I can't wait to see the face of Jesus'. And when I do I want to see Him smile. I want to bring a smile to the face of my Savior. I want Him to be pleased with my life. Jesus gave His life for me... and I gladly give Him mine. I know when I see Jesus I will be welcomed in to eternity with HIM.

Eternity is FOREVER, PLAN YOUR LIFE WITH IT IN MIND.

II. Teenager; Life is Your ONE CHANCE to Live for God

This is YOUR DAY. Now is YOUR TIME. This life you've been given is yours to do with what you want. You don't know how much time you have, but the time you do have is yours. MAKE IT COUNT. I challenge you to live your life in the perspective of eternity. Realize that right now is your chance to live for God. The choice is yours. You could seek after the things of this life, or you could focus on the things of God.

PRAY.

