

**2-27-22 Message**  
**MY ADVICE FOR THE PERILOUS DAYS**  
**THAT WE LIVE IN.**

**Intro:** I want to thank everyone for their prayers, cards, and letters of encouragement during my illness. Everyone has been a real encouragement and I thank God for you all.

The morning of our Valentines banquet I was supposed to do a memorial service for Sally Reiss' son who passed away. How sad it was that he battled with cancer for about 3 months and passed away. I have never in my life seen so many young people being afflicted with serious illnesses like the day we live in.

That Wednesday morning I woke up feeling tired and a bit feverish, and debated what to do. I called Sally and she decided to put off the memorial service. I took an in home covid test and the first test was inconclusive. There are supposed to be two lines that show up, and there was one line and another that was very faint. I just assumed it was covid, and treated it as such but never had an official test outside of the home test.

The truth is that I have been a lot sicker with just a regular cold in the past and many many times have gone to church with more severe symptoms than what I had. Yet because of the days in which we live, I decided to do all the protocol of Covid for the protection of others in the church. I can't begin to tell you how many people have told me they are just recovering from covid. People that have been vaccinated, people that have not been vaccinated, it doesn't seem to matter.

According to the CDC you're ok after 10 days of testing positive for covid. Today is the 12th day, but we decided to share the message on our video streaming service to play it safe for those who have concerns about getting the virus.

I praise God that we have done as well as we have the past 2 years. I dreaded getting sick these last two years knowing that if I did I would not be able to come into church. We just do not have people to fill in for me like we have had in the past. I thank God for Bryan McDonald for filling in this past Sunday and Wednesday. He did great job.

I tried to call some preacher friends to fill in for me today but everyone was busy and couldn't help. So I decided to just project the message for the service and have the men conduct the preliminaries. It was probably safe for me to come in but we decided to err on the safe side.

Lord willing, I will be back in the pulpit this Wednesday.

The truth is that we do not know from one day to the next what is in store for us. I remember when Ken Knapp had his seizures and wound up in the hospital. I received a text early in the morning from Ken asking about something, maybe the sermons for the

website, and the next thing I know I get a call from Ruth Ann that he is having seizures and needed to be rushed to the hospital.

The truth is there is no certainty in this life, and we do not know from one day to the next what the Lord has in store for us in this life.

I believe, we are in the last days, and the Lord wants us to be prepared for these days.

In this message I want to share some advice, some reminders of what we need to be doing in the perilous times in which we find ourselves.

### ***SOME ADVICE FOR THE PERILOUS DAYS THAT WE LIVE IN.***

#### ***I. LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME AS A BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN.***

Revelation 3:1 And unto the angel of the church in Sardis write; These things saith he that hath the seven Spirits of God, and the seven stars; ***I know thy works, that thou hast a name that thou livest, and art dead.***

Revelation 3:2 Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die: for I have not found thy works perfect before God.

Revelation 3:3 Remember therefore how thou hast received and heard, and hold fast, and repent. If therefore thou shalt not watch, I will come on thee as a thief, and thou shalt not know what hour I will come upon thee.

The Lord warns the church of Sardis that He could come upon them like a thief.

There are some things that come upon you all of a sudden with no warning. The Bible warns us that the last days of judgment can come upon us like a thief.

The Lord says to the church at Sardis, repent.

Repent of what?

The Lord said, you have a name that says you live but you are dead.

This is nothing worse than the sin of hypocrisy.

Repent of your hypocrisy, repent of living for sin and not living unto Christ.

Who are you fooling? God knows what you are, who you are, and how you are living.

#### ***1. AS CHRISTIANS WE ARE TO BE LIVING A LIFE THAT IS ALIVE UNTO GOD AND DEAD TO SIN.***

The Lord says, don't pretend to be one thing while you're doing the opposite.

Romans 6:2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?

Jesus said to the church of Sardis, you have a name that says you live but you are dead.

When we claim to be Christians, we are claiming to have new life in Christ,

If we are living in sin, and the Lord comes upon us as a thief we will be in trouble.

Each day of our lives we face three possibilities.

1. The Lord may give us another day to live for Him.
2. The Lord may take us to Himself, here there or in the air.
3. The Lord may be giving us a wake up call. Hopefully we get the chance for a wake up call.

My advice is to live up to your name.

Hebrews 3:7 Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice,  
Hebrews 3:8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:

Hebrews 3:15 While it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts, as in the provocation.

My advice is that we live up to our name. We are supposed to be born again Christians.

We are to be alive unto God and dead to sin. We need to be careful that we are living up to that name.

## ***II. THERE ARE SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO DO QUICKLY WHILE YOU CAN.***

### ***1. GET SAVED WITHOUT DELAY.***

II Corinthians 6:1 We then, as workers together with him, beseech you also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.

II Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

Every time, I get sick I think how foolish people are who think they are going to wait to get saved. I have seen many people get sick and die and when that day comes, a person battles just to try and stay alive and they are in no position to repent and get saved. It takes strength of will and mind and resolve to give your heart to the Lord.

I do not believe there are as many deathbed conversions as we would like to think.

God wrestles with us, and succors and leads us to Himself. He comes to our rescue.

II Corinthians 6:2 (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)

It is God who is running to us, not us who are running to God.

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

When God comes to you, don't harden your heart. When God draws you don't resist. When God calls you don't turn a deaf ear.

I remember when I first clearly heard the gospel. I rejected it. I rejected it because I thought it was just people who were trying to convince. Like a high pressure salesman. I was suspicious. The gospel made sense but I believed men were trying to persuade me.

The day I got saved, I was convinced it was God that was calling me, and if I rejected His voice then I might never hear that voice again.

Hebrews 4:7 ...To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.

There is no salvation after death. Will death come upon you as a thief?

Will you be unprepared for that day?  
Consider.

## **2. *WITHOUT DELAY YOU NEED TO GET RIGHT WITH SOMEONE YOU HAVE DONE WRONG TO OR HAVE BITTERNESS AGAINST.***

Matthew 5:23 Therefore if thou bring thy gift to the altar, and there rememberest that thy brother hath ought against thee;

Matthew 5:24 Leave there thy gift before the altar, and go thy way; first be reconciled to thy brother, and then come and offer thy gift.

Matthew 5:25 Agree with thine adversary quickly, whiles thou art in the way with him; lest at any time the adversary deliver thee to the judge, and the judge deliver thee to the officer, and thou be cast into prison.

Matthew 5:26 Verily I say unto thee, Thou shalt by no means come out thence, till thou hast paid the uttermost farthing.

I have seen too many people harboring unforgiveness in their hearts,

hatred in their hearts towards people.

I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

I John 4:21 And this commandment have we from him, That he who loveth God love his brother also.

Two great commands are to Love God with all your heart.  
The second great command is to love your neighbour as yourself.

If you say your are a Christian and you have no love for your brother you have a name that lives but you are dead. Who are you fooling?

I see people who hold grudges and pretend to be Christians. They have a name that they say they are living but they are dead.

If we say we are Christ like we need to love like He loved.

Ken Knapp tells the story of how he went into a Trustee meeting in a church and when he went into the meeting, one of the trustees was upset at someone. Brother Ken said, to the trustee, look, we need to love this person in the Lord. The Trustee said, I don't love them I hate them. Now that is an example of a person who says they are a Christian in name but they are dead.

I John 4:20 If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?

As Christians we need to seek reconciliation without delay!

### ***III. SET AS A LIFE GOAL TO BE ABLE TO SAY WITH PAUL THE APOSTLE I AM READY.***

II Timothy 4:6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.

II Timothy 4:7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith:

II Timothy 4:8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.

What is the greatest achievement that I can attain to?

Let me suggest it is to be able to say as the apostle Paul, I am ready.

How can you be ready?  
How could Paul say this?  
How could anyone be so sure of themselves?

The reason Paul was so sure of himself was because of the things he suffered for the Lord.

Paul was willing to be faithful unto death.

I see so many people that are getting older in life, and they are getting closer to their threescore and ten, and in the last lap of their race they are feeling sorry for themselves. They want to take a vacation from service. How foolish that is. Now is the time when those golden years are approaching now would be the time to:

Run the race with more diligence.  
Fight the battle with more fervor.  
Sacrifice with more dedication.

How could Paul say what he was saying?

He said it because in his old age he sat there in jail for Christ, suffering in prison, for the cause.

He was not sitting on a beach in Florida. He was not enjoying his second home in Arizona. He was fighting the fight in jail at Rome.

Paul was in Prison, in Rome, waiting to be executed for his faith.

Note what he says,

II Timothy 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

II Timothy 4:17 Notwithstanding the Lord stood with me, and strengthened me; that by me the preaching might be fully known, and that all the Gentiles might hear: and I was delivered out of the mouth of the lion.

II Timothy 4:18 And the Lord shall deliver me from every evil work, and will preserve me unto his heavenly kingdom: to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

Paul said, he was cast into the lions den to be killed by lions but God delivered him from the lions.

Now you are not going to be able to say I am ready to be offered up when you are complaining, griping about serving the Lord, feeling sorry for yourself, bitter about this and that.

Paul said, no one stood by me. And note how he said it, he didn't say it with bitterness.

II Timothy 4:16 At my first answer no man stood with me, but all men forsook me: I pray God that it may not be laid to their charge.

You will know you are ready to meet the Lord when you have a life filled with sacrificial service for the Lord.

Notice how Paul lived.

II Corinthians 11:24 Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one.

II Corinthians 11:25 Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep;

II Corinthians 11:26 In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren;

II Corinthians 11:27 In weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness.

II Corinthians 11:28 Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches.

II Corinthians 11:29 Who is weak, and I am not weak? who is offended, and I burn not?

II Corinthians 11:30 If I must needs glory, I will glory of the things which concern mine infirmities.

II Corinthians 11:31 The God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is blessed for evermore, knoweth that I lie not.

II Corinthians 11:32 In Damascus the governor under Aretas the king kept the city of the Damascenes with a garrison, desirous to apprehend me:

II Corinthians 11:33 And through a window in a basket was I let down by the wall, and escaped his hands.

II Corinthians 12:1 It is not expedient for me doubtless to glory. I will come to visions and revelations of the Lord.

II Corinthians 12:2 I knew a man in Christ above fourteen years ago, (whether in the body, I cannot tell; or whether out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;) such an one caught up to the third heaven.

II Corinthians 12:3 And I knew such a man, (whether in the body, or out of the body, I cannot tell: God knoweth;)

II Corinthians 12:4 How that he was caught up into paradise, and heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.

II Corinthians 12:5 Of such an one will I glory: yet of myself I will not glory, but in mine infirmities.

II Corinthians 12:6 For though I would desire to glory, I shall not be a fool; for I will say the truth: but now I forbear, lest any man should think of me above that which he seeth me to be, or that he heareth of me.

II Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

II Corinthians 12:8 For this thing I besought the Lord thrice, that it might depart from me.

II Corinthians 12:9 And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

II Corinthians 12:10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong.

Look you say you have faith. Note what James said,

James 2:18 Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

James 2:19 Thou believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble.

James 2:20 But wilt thou know, O vain man, that faith without works is dead?

How could Paul say he was ready? He could say it because his back bore the stripes of his faith.

He could say he was ready because he was in jail for his faith.

He could say it because he faced persecution time and time again for his faith.

These were things he could not deny.

Final Word Of Advice:

Look, the greatest goal I could have or you could have is this:

When that day comes, I will be able with confidence to say, LORD I AM READY.

That can only happen if my works are consistent with my faith.

That can only happen if I have lived a life of sacrifice and my life and works have been consistent with my faith.

If it were not for this covid scare I would be in church this morning. There were times when I was much sicker than I am now but I went to church.

I remember when I first came to the church i had terrible allergies. I many times had a hard time preaching because of the congestion and coughing and sneezing. So if I could not preach on Sunday, I did not go to work on Monday. When that happened a few times, I remember my boss calling me in and saying to me, "Bissol you only work

one day a week, when you miss that one day it is like missing a week of work. After that I decided, if I had to go to my job on Monday sick I could preach on Sunday sick.

The truth is, that because this covid has gotten milder and milder, there are a lot of places that are only giving 5 days off for covid, and as long as you don't have symptoms they are telling people to return to work. However, out of courtesy to those who are afraid of the illness I have decided to give it over the full ten days. Today is the 12th day from when I got sick.

I remember, when Jack McKeeby came to church with walking pneumonia. He used to get penicillin from old Dr. Guyer and just come to church.

I remember one Sunday he was so sick, that he had to go from pew to pew just to stand up.

Now lest I offend people I have stayed home but I can't help but think that there are a lot of people that are not going to be able to say like Paul.

I AM READY.

Paul was so sick, he said, he prayed three times to be healed of an affliction, and the Lord said, no, Paul. You can be more effective for me sick than healthy. We don't know what his affliction was but he had a terrible sickness and still he ministered.

My word of advice is this. Your sacrifices you make for serving the Lord will be your confidence in that day.

NO PAIN NO GAIN.

When Paul was writing to the Hebrews, who were complaining about the things they were suffering in their service for their King, note what he said,

Hebrews 12:3 For consider him that endured such contradiction of sinners against himself, lest ye be wearied and faint in your minds.

Hebrews 12:4 Ye have not yet resisted unto blood, striving against sin.

Paul said to his readers, you're complaining, but who has beat you, what blood have you shed for Christ?

I am afraid, that we have too many Christians who complain with no stripes on their back to back up their commitment to their Lord.

My word of advice is this.

**I. LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME BORN AGAIN CHRISTIAN.**

- II. **SOME THINGS YOU NEED TO DO QUICKLY WHILE YOU CAN.**  
Get right with God. Get right with your brother in Christ.
  
- III. **SET A GOAL TO BE ABLE TO SAY, I AM READY WHEN THE LORD COMES.**