

Set Thine House in Order June 2000

Open your Bibles to Isaiah 38:1-5: *In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came unto him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live. Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore. Then came the word of the LORD to Isaiah, saying, Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.* Our Father, in Jesus' name this morning, I pray that You would help each of us to have our house in order for the divine appointment. Speak to us we pray. May we not gamble about tomorrow, but today take advantage of it. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The passage that I have read closes with an additional fifteen years of life; however, it would have been good if he would have died because the fifteen years that God gave him — he lived one of the most wicked lives in all history. Manasseh was born, and fifteen years did not help him. It harmed him and the cause of God tremendously, but that promise of God was made to him. I want to deal with us today. In the text, verse 1: *Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.* My message has come out of the past three or four weeks. I have watched another deathbed scene of one of my own family. I have been to the cemetery eleven times with my family, brother-in-laws, sister-in-laws, brothers, mother and dad, papa and mama, and a couple of nieces. I want to share a couple of those things that have happened in the last two or three weeks with you to help you and assist you in getting your house in order for moving days.

Now consider the appointment to be met — death. You are going to die. Everybody here, if Jesus does not come soon, is going to die. I am going to die. It is inevitable. *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:* There is no reincarnation, no second chance, no other opportunity, no chance to run by it again. That is not found in the Bible. If we knew the exact day and hour of our appointment, I am sure that it would affect our lifestyle tremendously. Death is universal. *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:* Anybody that says “I am not a sinner,” hang around. They will prove it when they die. Sinners die. Babies die. Babies do not die because they have sinned. Babies die because they are sinners. They are sinners through Adam, and they are born sinners. We die. The Scripture says that it is universal. Death is no respecter of persons. Death passed upon all men, all races, all ages, and all nations -- man and woman, boy and girl, young and old. In our family lot, there is one that is eighteen months old. There are others way up in years. Death is no respecter of persons. Death is part of our world. You cannot hide from it. You drive through the city and go past the cemetery. You take a newspaper, and it has an obituary column. The radio speaks of death; television speaks of death also as well as the things that happen before our eyes. God intended death to be educational. Moses who watched more people die than anybody else in human history wrote Psalm 90. It was written in the wilderness when one generation of men was destined to die in the wilderness. Moses wrote in that Psalm of the eternity of God. *Before the mountains were brought forth, or ever thou hadst formed the earth and the world, even from everlasting to everlasting, thou art God.* He is eternal. Then he talks about the fact of our frailty and the brevity of life. Sometimes, he says it is like the grass that grows up in the morning and cut down in the evening. So, he comes to the conclusion that life is brief. Death is certain, but life is brief. Death is sure. Then he concludes with this petition: *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.* We would be wise to number our days. We do not want to think about it. We want to push that thing away from us as far as possible. We do not dig the graves anymore. We hire grave diggers. We do not stand and throw the dirt on the coffin and hear the dull thud that it makes on the coffin. We do not do that anymore. The dirt beside the grave is covered with artificial grass to hide that. The family moves away from the cemetery. They do not hear the dirt falling upon the coffin. The flowers hide the gruesome thing called death. It is still there, but we do not want to think about death. We want to think about life. My sister-in-law said the other day, “I wish they would leave the bodies in the home like they used to.” They used to stay home until the day of the funeral, but now they cart them off somewhere. They used to have their body brought back to the house. It is called a wake to watch the dead body. They would watch the body all night long.

Death was not somewhere over there. The whole family was brought into this fact of the reality of death. I think that is the way it ought to be because it affects everybody. Children ought to be involved. If you keep them away, when they get older, it frightens them to death. It was a common thing. It was grandpa. They felt him. They touched him. They talked about him. They understood about death. There was not a terror with death, but there was an instruction. I had one of my grandsons with me the night of visitation in Ocala. He is four years old. He asked questions. He said, "Can I touch him?" I said, "Yes, you can touch him, but he is cold now. Your heart beats and the blood circulates. When the heart stops, the body gets cold. This is not Uncle Eric. He is not here. This is the house that he lived in. He has moved out. Do you remember that you used to live in Lakeland and you moved to Orlando? Then, you moved from Orlando to Birmingham. Do you remember that?" "Yes, Sir." I said, "Uncle Eric moved out of this body, and God brought him and put him into another body, another house. This is the house that he lived in. He is not here. He is gone. He is cold now. The heart is no longer beating." He felt of him, touched him, ran his fingers through his hair. I talked about it. He went away, and he came back again. I stood there with him and talked to him about the matter of death and what death was. This was not permanent. Beyond this is Heaven. We leave this body for a heavenly body. It is an opportunity to teach our young people about life and values and leaving this world. Well, I found out that he came to Lakeland and played with one of the little girl friends the next day. Guess what they played. They played funeral. There was not any terror. This is part of life. We put death in an American scene. That is not the way in the Bible. Death was there. It was right there with you twenty-four hours a day. You understood it. You knew what death was all about. It was instructional and an opportunity to talk about the resurrection. Then I talked about the fact that this is a body, but this is also a seed. A seed? I said, "Didn't you plant some flowers?" The rain came and washed them away, and nothing came up. But, I said, "Didn't you plant some seed, some flowers? Those were ugly seeds when you put them into the ground. When the water comes, a beautiful flower comes out. This is just going to put this body in the ground. It is a seed. Out of this is going to come a beautiful body." *So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.* We need to teach our children about death. The quicker we teach them about it the less problems they will have facing it. Death teaches the values of life. I kept an article from J. Vernon McGee. Listen to what he says: *Some years ago, I received a letter from a fine young minister who had been told by his doctor that he had cancer and that his days were limited. He sent out a letter to some of his friends, and I was privileged to be included in the list. Here is a brief quotation from his letter so that you might know the thinking of a man under the shadow of death: 'One thing that I have discovered in the last few days is that when a Christian is suddenly confronted with the sentence of death, he surely begins to give a proper evaluation of material things. My fishing gear and books and orchids are not nearly so valuable as they were a week ago.' I conducted this young preacher's funeral, and many years later, I had the experience of having cancer myself. My doctor told me that he thought that I only had about three months to live. I can bare witness to the young preacher's statement. It was amazing how certain things suddenly became very unimportant. One of those things was my home. I thought I would not be living in it but a few more weeks. It certainly became unimportant to me, but where I was going became very important. Well, God had other plans for me for which I am indeed grateful. I thank and praise Him for each new day that He gives to me.* It is educational.

It will sure adjust our values. You cannot take things with you. There are no U-Hauls being pulled behind hearses. You cannot take it you. What you take with you is invested in the cause of Jesus Christ. It is educational. It teaches the values of life. Now, enough about death.

There is matter of the duty to be preformed. *Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.* The last act of stewardship that a man has is getting his house in order for death. That is the last act of stewardship. For it all belongs to Him. We are going to Him. Amos 4: . . . *prepare to meet thy God.* We have seen so little of God because we have been so backslidden as a nation. Men sin and laugh and talk about death, but meeting God is a serious thing. Daniel fell down before Gabriel breathless, strengthless, and weak. If the Son of God walked into the audience this morning in His glory, there would not be anybody wanting to run up and shake His hand. We would all be down on our faces strengthless and helpless. Prepare to meet God -- God that made the heavens, God that prepared the lake of fire for the Devil and his angels, God that

made man. You are going to meet Him personally. I am going to meet Him personally. That is a very sobering and serious thing. The moment that you meet Him, I will assure you that you will recognize as never before the seriousness of meeting God. God tells us to *prepare to meet thy God*. Now, I want to slow down and talk about some very practical things about setting your house in order. Many Christians do not have their house in order in the aspect in which I am talking basically this morning. Unsaved people do not have their house in order because they are not saved, but the message is primarily for Christians now. Here is the man Hezekiah, a godly man. *Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live*. Your house means your estate, all of your affairs. Make sure you are personally trusting Jesus Christ as personal Savior. Do not leave your loved ones in doubt as to whether you are saved or not. That is hard. That is difficult. When people die, loved ones look everywhere in the world for some little grasp of hope. Sometimes a man has grown up and lived like the Devil for years; then he dies. You look back and say, "Oh, but he made a profession of faith in Sunday School many, many years ago." That does not bring a whole lot of hope to my heart. He lived like the Devil for many years. "Yes, sir, but he made a profession of faith." Yes, he did; but listen, God deals with people who claim to be saved yet are living in sin. God, your Father, will come after you. He will whip you. You make sure you leave for your husband or wife, your family, a testimony of salvation.

Carefully prepare for your loved ones. Have you made preparations, young men? "Well, I am going to live a long time." No, you may think you do, and you may. The Bible says that he that careth not for his own is worse than an infidel. You are supposed to make preparations for the care of your family when you leave this life. It is evidence and part of your spiritual life. How much you love them is an intelligent preparation for them when you leave this life. Have you made preparations to die? Have you made preparations when you leave your loved ones? One of these days, you are going to leave your loved ones. Leave them the fact that you love them supremely. My brother loved his wife. They did not have any children. Eric would have been seventy-nine in September. Emily, his wife said, "If any woman ever had a man that loved her, I had a man that loved me." Back in the sixties, Emily was a city manager's secretary. She had a cerebral hemorrhage. For six months, she did not know that she was in this world, but she recovered. She is still sharp and alert. Her memory is very fleeting. She forgets so easily, so quickly. He loved her. The first words that he said when I went to the emergency room was, "Take care of Emily. She cannot take care of herself." His concern was his wife. He would not allow her to call an ambulance when he had a stroke. He knew he had a stroke. He lay on the floor all day Wednesday, all Wednesday night until the afternoon of Thursday. He did not want anybody to call an ambulance because the ambulance would take him away, and he did not have anybody to leave Emily with. He would not leave Emily. Now, that may seem strange, but that was why he did that. I stood beside his bedside. I made several trips to Ocala. At his bedside, he would catch a hold of her hand and say, "I love you. I love you." He was not catching up on love; this was a pattern of his life. "I love you. I love you. I love you." The last act that he did in this world — he took her hand, pulled her hand up to his mouth, kissed her hand and went home to be with the Lord. That was his last act in life before going to be with the Lord. "I love you." Sometimes, it is sad when people marry. When death comes, it is a release for some folks; and for some it is a terrible, terrible sorrow. Love, our love for each other -- you cannot give your family anything greater than the fact, "I love you. You are a first in my heart and my life." Sir, your wife ought to be first in your life. I am not talking about ahead of Jesus. If Jesus is first in your life, your wife is first in your affections and your children are second, not that you love them less than the husband or wife. You keep husband and wife together like this, then you keep the children stable knowing that mom and dad love each other. If you died today, could your mate say, "He loved me. (or, She loved me.) I was first in their heart and life. He treated me like a lady. (or, She treated me like a man.)"? What about that? If you died with a heart attack today, what will you leave etched indelibly in the memory of your mate? That is part of your preparing to meet God. So, here is my brother. Now, legally, I stood by his bed. He is paralyzed on the left side. After talking to him that night, we came back the next day. The next day, I said, "Are your legal affairs in order?" I said, "Do you have a will?" We had to talk about that. You are going to tell him that he is going to die. He

had a stroke. He could die anytime. That is something you have to talk about whether you want to or not. "Do you have a will?" "Yes, I have a will, but it is not up to date." There had been some changes that he needed to take care of. I said, "You need not only a will. A will takes effect after you die. You need a power of attorney, somebody who can make decisions for you if you get in a position where you or Emily cannot make decisions. You need a power of attorney." He called an attorney the next day and got those things straightened out. That is part of your preparing to meet God. If you do not have a will, the government has a will; the state has a will to dispense of your affairs like they want to. You had better not say that it does not make any difference. It does make a difference. You make it easy on your family by taking care of that while you are alive. You have a will, up to date, power of attorney. Do you have insurance? Do you have savings? Your wife, your mate, ought to know every bit of your financial structure. Why? That is your wife. That is your mate. I heard of somebody who lived near Orlando and died. He had a million dollars and nobody knew about it. When he died, his loved ones were sued for taxes. They never knew it was theirs to begin with. Do you understand the secrecy. I cannot understand a man or a woman hiding their finances from one another. We are of one heart and one mind. This is not your money. This is our money. We understand. You leave your wife understanding about savings, where they are, where the key to the deposit box is, the name on the box to be able to get into the box, and stocks and bonds and where they are. That is part of your stewardship, Dad. Inform. That is part of your stewardship, Mother. If dad is going to be with the Lord, part of your stewardship is that you tell your loved ones how to go about and how things are taken care of. That is part of it. If you died today, Sir, would your wife be in a mess? You see, I am associated with death more than anybody in this church unless there is an undertaker present. I went to pray with a widow, and she discovered that her husband was still married to somebody else. She was married to him, and he said, "I'll take care of everything, honey." She said he never took care of a thing in the world. He did not leave her anything. He was married, and it took death. What did she have? She did not have anything. I took the money that was in my pockets. I had about thirty-five dollars at the time. I took it out of my hand, and I gave it to her. I said, "Here. This will help you today." Do you understand that you are going to die? Do you understand that you have to be totally honest? You are going to die. You are going to face God. When you face God, can you be deceptive here and the next moment face God and think, "Well, everything is all right"? You share information. Why? You are not going to live forever. You may die of a heart attack and your children cannot get a hold of the money. It is tied up in his name, etc. I want to tell you that the government can get a whole lot of money that you supposedly saved for your loved ones, but you did not take an intelligent stance and found out what was right and wrong and what would pass and what would not. Do right. Who is going to get the furniture? The family is going to squabble over this and over that. I said, "I want papa's picture." I have got papa's picture now. Emily says, "It means as much to me as it does to you," because she loved my daddy and my daddy loved her. I brought the picture down and was going to show it to you. In a few days, I am going to take my mother's picture and my papa's picture back to Emily. When Emily dies, those pictures are mine. Spell out what you are going to do with the trucks. What are you going to do with the cattle? What are you going to do with the house? What are you going to do with the land? I probed him and said, "What? What? What?" Why was I probing? I was trying to save Emily problems. I was trying to get him to do it like he wanted to do it. Do it right. Take care of it to take the burden off the one who is grieved or left behind. What about funeral arrangements? Are you going to have life support systems? I want to tell you, that is an awful decision for the living when their loved one is on the bed. The doctor says they are brain dead. You tell them to take them off. That is a horrible decision. Hey, that is mama. Hey, that is daddy. That is my son. You make those decisions yourself and put it in the living will what you want done. Do not leave them feeling guilty: "If I don't take this off, maybe he could live longer." You make that decision yourself. Do you want life support system? I do not want that decision for somebody to have to make about me. If you pull it off, they are gone. "Well, maybe I am the one that killed them. Maybe they would have lived." Those are things that you need to think about. My brother refused life support system and wrote when he knew what he was doing, "I do not want any life support systems." They came in and wanted to operate on his stomach and put a tube in so that they could feed him through his stomach. He said, "I do not want any life support systems. I do not want any of that. I will not have that." They backed off and let him alone. He was paralyzed now. He could barely swallow. He

was paralyzed on one side. Somewhere in his life, he made up his mind that he was not going to have any of that. He refused it and made the doctors back up. This is what he said. This was his wish. Some of the family thought, "Well, they ought to force it anyhow." That was his wish. You are going to die. Who is going to preach your funeral? Where do you want to be buried? Who do you want to sing? You are going to die. Make preparations for it. Set thine house in order. Do not leave your widow all the heartaches and problems. "Well, you just do what you want to." That is your responsibility if you are a man. That is your responsibility if you are a mother, a single parent. Organ transplants -- You need to be careful. I read the other day about an organ transplant, and they sent this person a bill for fifteen thousand dollars. They finally got it down to eight thousand that they had to pay the doctor to take the organ out and for transportation of it. It is a tremendous deal. It is not supposed to be that way, but it happened that way. You need to check all that out before you do it. Is there anything in the will for the cause of Jesus Christ? That ought to be part of your thought. Preparation. *Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.* Personal reconciliation. Can you understand that He Who said, "Forgive," and He Who talks about if you have any ought against a brother and do not straighten it out, you are going to meet Him Who said that. Are you are going to meet Him with grudges in your heart and life? It is an awesome thing if you die when you have ought against somebody. I had a brother-in-law who died. His will was his last act of revenge to my sister. He left her all the bills, and he left all the money to his son. He that loveth not his own is worse than an infidel. You must understand that we are going to face God, the God of reconciliation, the God Who talks about forgiveness, the God Who talks about things being right. Do you mean to tell me that you are not going to take care of that? My brother said to two people. "I'm sorry." Oh, what a sweet relationship leaped into action that had been dormant for some time. Why? He understood. He knew he was dying. He brokenly said, "I'm sorry." You are going to lay on your deathbed, and faces will come before you that you have offended. Faces will come before you of those who have asked you to forgive them, and you would not forgive. This matter of your deathbed ought to be a time of getting things right with human beings, with one another. You are going to meet a holy God. It is hard to imagine meeting a holy God with a grudge. That is scary. Reconciliation. This is the heart of the rest of the message. Look at Proverbs 18:21. I grieve. I preach what I have discovered from the Bible and from life. I do not know it all. I am not infallible. I never claimed to be. I never claimed that I knew it all since I was a teenager. Proverbs 18:24: *A man that hath friends must shew himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother.* You ought to have life support relationship in your death. I am not talking about the scenery. I am talking about people. You need them. You do not form friends: "I am going to make a friend here because I am going to die one of these days and I want him to be around to take care of me." That is not a friendship. That is blackmail, trying to get his friendship when you really do not want it. I am not talking about that. The thing of friends and availability, that is something else. You cannot buy friends, but you sure can make them. I want to tell you that friends are something else. Nothing can take the place of friends. I have never been anywhere where I did not have friends. What are friends for? They are not to be used, but God says that we need each other. *Bear ye one another's burdens, and so fulfil the law of Christ.* How can I bear your burdens if I do not know them? How I am going to know them? You are going to have to tell them to me. In telling them to me, I will understand, and I will know you more. If you never tell, I can never bear your burdens. The Bible tells me to weep with those who weep. How can I weep with you unless I know you are weeping? There are many passages of Scripture that talk about human relationships. Did you know that we hinder and harm the cause of Jesus Christ because of that? Do you have life support relationships that if you died today, are there friends who would stand by your wife, your husband, your children? I mean someone who would come in and take over, and hold them up, and undergird them, and carry them through? Do you have that? Or have you just shut yourself away from life and people? When you die, you have left somebody lonely with nobody in the world to come to their aid and rescue. That is sinful. You may be helpless in a moment. I never thought about owning a home. Preachers live in parsonages. I have never owned a home. I never thought about it. Back in 1971 early part of 1972, I fell out, and I was out of the ministry for three months. I began to think about making a living and finding someplace as a nest. Security. I began thinking about a home then. A stroke can make you totally helpless. I do not care how young you are. By the way, young people die with an heart attack more quickly than older people. You can be stricken and

not be able to talk. You can be totally helpless in seconds. You are totally helpless. Somebody would have to feed you, have to clothe you. Somebody would have to do everything in the world for you. That can happen to you. Then, if you do not have friends, who is going to take care of you? Oh, you say, "Well, I have family." Did you know that some people do not have families? They are the only ones left, or their family lives on the other side of the world. "But, they are family." Yes sir, but suppose families are not even nearby. Who is going to take care of them? About two weeks ago, I left Orlando and flew to Chattanooga for a meeting concerning Tennessee Temple University. I got in in the afternoon. We had a banquet that night. I came home after the banquet at one o'clock in the morning and began having chest pains. These chest pains were consistent. They would not leave. 1:00. 2:00. 3:00. I said, "My, I would hate to call somebody." Then, I thought about my family: "Well, I have a responsibility to my family. My family loves me. But, I hate to have to call somebody." 3:30. "Well, I would hate to call the office, and the ambulance come and take me to the hospital. I do not want to go to the hospital." After a while, I remembered a friend that was in town. At 3:30, I called him. He said, "Hey, what do you want?" He knew something was wrong when his phone rang at 3:30 in the morning. "I want to talk to you for a minute." So I talked to him and told him what it was. I told him that I was not feeling horrible or terrible, but these pains would not leave me. So, we talked a while. He said, "Well, I will be over there to pick you up." He came over and got me, and I checked out of the hotel at 4:00 in the morning. He took me to his apartment at Tennessee Temple. He said, "Lie down on the bed and rest." I had not slept yet, and I did not sleep that night. I lay down on the bed. I said, "Lie down on the other side." He said, "No, I will just sit up here." So, he sat on the sofa until 6:00 in the morning. He dozed a little bit. Here is a friend. There were many folks I could have called. He took me to the hospital, and they were doing a blood test. I whispered to him, "If I knew I could get an EKG somewhere close by without going through all the rigamarole going to the hospital, I would do so." Someone whispered it to the president of the college, and he said, "Sure." They took me off and decided that I ought to be admitted. Everybody was tremendous — the nurses, everybody, friends from everywhere. They admitted me. I had two calls from Dr. Roberson, three from Dr. Faulkner, Charlie Thompson, and I do not know how many folks came or telephoned. If all those calls would have been coming through the switch board instead of directly into my room, they would have protested. My phone rang with folks trying to find out and folks who came by constantly. That afternoon the pain moved to the center of my chest. They said, "Now, you do not win any awards in here for being a hero. We do not give any awards out for you hiding pain if you have pain." I had to tell them every time I had a pain. I had a pain, and they gave me four nitro tablets. It did not take care of it. Then, they gave me a shot of morphine. That did not take care of it. Then they decided that they better do something else. They did some tests. They said, "You ought to live to be as old as Methuselah. No problem there. It is a gastrointestinal problem of some sort." The deacons got my wife on the plane and a motel and a car. Friends sent cards all across this nation. There have been so many places that I have gotten ill, and I have had a flood of friends everywhere. I grieve for you that do not have that. Life support relationships. When you are dying if you have ever needed friends, you need friends now. There are people that I can call across this nation and this world that will help me. Neighbors will help me. This church, what a refuge of prayer. What a refuge, my family, this family. Men and women somehow have different temperaments, but God never gave anybody an anti-social temperament. God never made anybody anti-social. If have a temper that says, "I can manage it, and I do not need anybody," you will rule the day when you feel that way. There are some things that you cannot do by yourself. There were things that Eric absolutely could not do. I did them for him, and Billy, my brother, did for him day in and day out. There will come a time when you can no longer be in charge. You want to be in charge, but you have to turn loose because you cannot hold on. I ask today, "What sort of predicament will you be in today? Man or woman, if you died, what sort of predicament would your family be in because you have not taken time to make friends; you have not taken time for others?" You do not make friends to use. Friends are there to help in time of need. That is what a friend does. Our family grew up around people. Our house has always been like a motel until a few years ago. All the speakers would stay with us. I began to put them in a motel so that I could get some rest at night because we would laugh and joke all night long. The girls would say, "Please, do not put them in the motel." They were enjoying sitting up and laughing with the preachers. They would stay and stay and stay. Listen, friendship pays off. Life support relationships. I hope

you have them -- friends to aid your wife, friends to stand by your husband, friends to take care of the children, friends to help you. Now, look at the petition he offered in Isaiah 38. Hezekiah turned his face to the wall, not like Ahab who pouted. *Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, (Privacy) and prayed unto the LORD, (That is what you can do.) And said, Remember now, O LORD, I beseech thee, how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.* You can pour out your grief, your sorrow, to the Lord. Hezekiah did not have any grief of vain regrets. He said, "I have lived for You." That was not self-righteousness. He was just being honest. If he was self-righteous, God would have pointed it out. I have lived my life for you, Dear Lord. He poured his heart out to the Lord, and the Lord said, *I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears:* Now, the will of God comes in. What is he going to do about it? That is personal. If you are unsaved today, you could die today. I think of Belshazzar partying. He decided he would have a party like no other party — a thousand lords and women. In Daniel 5, they are drinking wine out of vessels that belong to God and the fingers of a man's hand wrote on the wall, "You are weighed in the balances and found wanting." Boy, old Belshazzar became afraid then. He was brazen before, and now he was scared to death. His knees knocked. His hip joints came out of socket. That night, he was slain, and he went out into eternity. Yes, Sir. "I am not thinking about death." The rich man in Luke 12 was not thinking about death. He was thinking about houses and tearing down his barns and building greater and more and more and more. God said, *Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?* You could die. There are a lot of folks who die today that never thought about dying. There are caskets downtown prepared for folks who are going to die. They are not dead, but they are waiting on them. There are caskets and funeral homes that are waiting for folks that are healthy and hearty walking around the streets never thinking about a casket, but they are sitting down there waiting on them. *Set thine house in order: for thou shalt die, and not live.*