

Ending Well

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God desires that we walk with Him throughout our lives, ending victoriously our brief time on earth. He has recorded stories for us from the lives of men to help us do that.

Romans 15:4 _____
I Corinthians 10:11 _____

I. Many men started well and ended very poorly.

Why did they not end well? Scriptures give some indications as to why.

A. Saul

Apparently, he began as an humble young man. I Samuel 10:22, 27.
Ended very poorly -- a terrible disappointment to God. I Samuel 15:10; 11
Jealousy -- I Samuel 18:6-9; 14, 15
Disobedience -- I Samuel 15:22, 23.
Likely had a desire for fame and power _____

B. The Nation of Israel

I Samuel 8:5 _____
Jeremiah 2:5 _____
Jeremiah 2:13 _____
Jeremiah 2:32 _____
Deuteronomy 5:29 _____
Isaiah 48:18 _____
Other observations or summary _____

C. David

II Samuel 11 and 12 _____
Results of David's sin - II Samuel 12:10, 11 _____
II Samuel 24:1-4, 10 -15 and I Chronicles 21:1-4 _____
I Kings 15:5 _____
Acts 13:22 _____
Acts 13:36 _____
Other observations or summary _____

D. Solomon

I Kings 3:1 _____
I Kings 11:2- 4 _____

I Kings 3:12 _____
Other observations or summary _____

E. Rehoboam

I Kings 12:12-16 _____
Other observations or summary _____

F. Hezekiah

II Chronicles 32:24, 25 _____
Other observations or summary _____

G. Demas

Colossians 4:14, Philemon 24 _____
II Timothy 4:10 _____
Other observations or summary _____

Lessons for my life from these men _____

II. Men who ended well

A. John Mark

Acts 13:37-39 _____
II Timothy 4:11 _____
Other observations or summary _____

B. Paul

Acts 7:58 - 8:1, 3 _____
Acts 20:24 _____

Philippians 1:21 _____
II Timothy 4:7, 8 _____
Other observations or summary _____

III. Application

What has God said to me about areas that could keep me from ending well?

What do I need to do?

LeRoy Eims once said, "You only have to walk with God one day and that is today. When tomorrow gets here, it will be today." Why did God divide our lives into 24 hour segments with some of that time given to sleep? He knew we could best handle life one day at a time. Have you ever noticed that God doesn't allow us to see very far down the road? We can plan and we should, but we cannot totally determine what happens with our lives.

Jeremiah 10:23 _____

None of us know what we may face before He comes or we go. There may be some hard times as there were for these two men.

Ezekiel 32:14 _____
Genesis 48:7 (Jacob) _____

We need to set our heart to walk with Him, regardless.

Our time on earth is very brief.

Psalm 90:12 _____
Psalm 39:4 _____
James 4:14 _____

We need the help of others in our walk with God.

Ecclesiastes 4: 9,10 _____

The greatest accountability there is, is the fear of God and His ever-seeing eye.

Psalm 139:12 _____
Hebrews 4:13 _____
Psalm 94:9 _____
Jeremiah 23:24 _____

Other passages to consider:

Jeremiah 9:22, 23 _____
I Timothy 6:6-11,17 _____
II Timothy 2:22 _____
Jeremiah 17:11 _____
Psalm 62:10 _____

We can end well by walking with God every day. The greatest help to insuring ending well is a solid, daily time in meditating on the Scriptures and prayer, coupled with obedience. These disciplines, along with scripture memory and review allow us to daily be reminded of what is most important in life.

“But seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” Matthew 6:33

One of the things I pray for my life is:

“O God, thou hast taught me from my youth: and hitherto have I declared thy wondrous works. Now also when I am old and grey-headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shewed thy strength unto this generation, and thy power to everyone that is to come.” Psalm 71:17, 18

Don’t ever retire! You may retire from an job, but never from the Lord’s work.

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.” I Corinthians 15:58

“Why retire when you can re-enlist.” – John Maxwell

My Personal Application _____

I Timothy 4:7 “...discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness.”