



## Put Your House In Order

People usually are careful about taking care of their health. They take care of their teeth, their eyes, their lungs.

People ordinarily are diligent in providing for the future. A man who owns a house will keep it in good condition by having it repainted and repaired. A man puts his money in a bank and his securities and values in a vault of safe.

A man buys insurance on his home and on his life to protect himself and his loved ones against loss and poverty.

People put burglar alarms on their homes and pay taxes for police protection against thieves.

All these things are good and commendable. But how many people do you know who prove by their constant, day-by-day manner of living that they are convinced that the most important affair in life is the saving of their soul?

We are not forgetting about the need of working to provide food and shelter and to obtain security for the future and to have the money to pay for recreation and amusement and all the good, God-given things in life. Time must be devoted to providing these things. But there is a much greater need for all people in all the rush of living to find the time, again and again, to stop and think and ask themselves, "Why am I doing all this really? What is it all doing to me? What am I getting out of it, not just for life, but for eternity? What am I doing with my soul which will live forever?"

When you are dealing with your soul you are dealing with yourself. Your soul makes you what you are; and when you work for or neglect your soul, you are working for or neglecting yourself. When you decide the eternal condition of your soul, you are deciding the eternal condition of yourself.

No one else can save your soul for you. Others can help you save your soul, by prayer, encouragement, good advice. God also helps you by His wonderful gifts of grace. But if, at the moment when time runs out for you, your soul is not in his friendship, even God cannot save you. The final choice lies with you and you alone.

All living persons are making this choice every day of their lives, at every moment. It is because they do not realize that they are constantly making this choice during life that people seem to care about it so little. And they do not realize that they are constantly making this choice because they will not take the time to stop once in a while to think about it sensibly and seriously.

It is true that as long as there is a moment of life remaining it is possible for a person to make either choice----happiness or unhappiness for all eternity. But once the last moment of time has passed, there will be no more choosing.

Who knows when this last moment will come?

We all admire a man who can take defeat in a game or in a business deal with a grin. We tell him, "Better luck next time!" But in this matter of saving your soul, you can lose only once.

There is no next time.

Once you cross the finish line, you are across that line forever, and you cannot come back to try again.

Chaplain Pepera



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