

**Reaching New Heights
Reaching the Ultimate Height
Preparing to Live by Preparing to Die**

Agree/Disagree – You are not prepared to live until you are prepared to die.

Psalm 90:12 - *So teach us to number our days, that we may present to You a heart of wisdom.*

4 principles to help you have your house in order:

I. Be Willing to Stand for Righteousness in Your Youth

A. "Son of Ahaz" (v. 1) – "Son of David" (V. 3)?

v. 3 – *He did right in the sight of the Lord.*

B. He removed what would have been offensive to God – v. 4

C. He trusted in the Lord – v. 5

2 Kings 18:5 - *He trusted in the Lord, the God of Israel; so that after him there was none like him among all the kings of Judah, nor among those who were before him.*

D. He clung to the Lord and kept His commandments

2 Kings 18:6 - *For he clung to the Lord; he did not depart from following Him, but kept His commandments, which the Lord had commanded Moses.*

II. Be Willing to Trust the Lord When It is Hard

A. The Assyrian's attack – 18:13-37

B. Hezekiah's response – 19:1-7

C. The Assyrian's boast – 19:8-13

2 Kings 19:10-12 - *Thus you shall say to Hezekiah king of Judah, "Do not let your God in whom you trust deceive you saying, 'Jerusalem will not be given into the hand of the king of Assyria'". Behold, you have heard what the kings of Assyria have done to all the lands, destroying them completely. So*

will you be spared? Did the gods of those nations which my fathers destroyed deliver them, even Gozan and Haran and Rezeph and the sons of Eden who were in Telassar?

D. Hezekiah's prayer – 19:14-19

2 Kings 19:14 - Then Hezekiah took the letter from the hand of the messengers and read it, and he went up to the house of the Lord and spread it out before the Lord.

E. God's intervention – 19:20-37

III. Be Willing to Cry Out to God When You Especially Need Him

A. Hezekiah's crisis – 20:1

2 Kings 20:1 - In those days Hezekiah became mortally ill. And Isaiah the prophet the son of Amoz came to him and said to him, "Thus says the Lord, 'Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live.' "

B. Hezekiah's response – 20:2-3

2 Kings 20:3 – Remember now, O Lord, I beseech You, how I have walked before You in truth and with a whole heart and have done what is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

C. God's intervention – 20:4-11

2 Kings 20:6 - I will add fifteen years to your life, and I will deliver you and this city from the hand of the king of Assyria; and I will defend this city for My own sake and for My servant David's sake.

IV. Be Willing to Make Choices That are Best for Future Generations

A. The Babylonian's visit – 20:12-13

B. Isaiah's confrontation – 20:14-18

C. Hezekiah's unfortunate perspective – 20:19

2 Kings 20:19 - Then Hezekiah said to Isaiah, "The word of the Lord which you have spoken is good." For he thought, "Is it not so, if there will be peace and truth in my days?"

Many people have requested information about the content of the “death” file mentioned in Sunday’s (12/30/07) sermon titled “Preparing to Live by Preparing to Die.” Here is the list of items that Pastor Viars has included in his personal file.

“Death” File:

1. Full names
2. SS Numbers
3. Location of your will
4. Attorney
5. Life insurance policy info
6. Tax information
7. Cemetery plots
8. Bank accounts
9. Location of canceled checks, statements
10. Retirement funds
11. College savings
12. Family balance sheet
13. List of credit cards
14. Home information
15. Other insurance info
16. Other important papers and legal documents regarding children, etc.