

**I MIGHT DIE  
TODAY**

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Before this day ends I might die. Now there is a morbid and unwelcome thought. What kind of person thinks such a thing? The sort of person who was Jonathan Edwards, the greatest of all American preachers and the man God chose to use in the Great Awakening, the revival which swept colonial America back in the 1740's. As a young man, Edwards wrote these words: "Resolved: To think much, on all occasions, of my own dying, and of the common circumstances which attend death".

I think Edwards had it exactly right. Unless the Lord returns within my lifetime, I will die. Because I am a Christian I can say exactly what Paul said in II Corinthians 5:1-9.

"Now we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come. Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it."

As a Christian, I do not need to fear what will happen to me when I die. Thinking about the shortness of this present life gives me reason to live according to biblical wisdom and to see to it that my house is in order. This helps me establish priorities which truly matter. It is all too easy to get caught up in and consumed by things that have no eternal value. Jesus had much to say about living in view of eternity (See Matthew 6:19-33).

Here is a very helpful acronym for living wisely: **A.L.I.V.E.** Now here is what it means: **A**lways **L**ive **I**n **V**iew of **E**ternity. I want to live today in light of the absolute sure fact that 100 years from now I will not be alive in my current body, but I will be living in eternity. I will be in eternity not only 100 years from now, but 1,000 years from now, 10,000 years from now, 1,000,000 years from now ... I think you get the point. Thinking about my approaching death doesn't depress me; it motivates me to spend what short time I have in this life to prepare for that life with Christ in Heaven which will never end. I want this awareness to affect my relationships, my finances, my service, and the legacy I leave for my children and grandchildren.

I enjoy watching old black and white movies. They could not rely on special effects to tell their stories, and some true works of cinematic genius can be found in these old films. One of my

favorites is Casablanca (Warner Brothers, 1942). What a cast! Humphrey Bogart, Ingrid Bergman, Claude Rains, Peter Lorre, Sydney Greenstreet and others. Did you know that Casablanca was the source of these famous one-liners: "Play it again Sam", "Round up the usual suspects", "We'll always have Paris". "Here's looking at you, kid"? Almost every movie critic ranks Casablanca as one of the five greatest movies ever made.

Why would I mention a movie made so long ago? Because one of the things I reflect upon as I watch this film is that every actor I am watching is now dead and has been for a long time. As much as I enjoy old films, they also provide me with a powerful reminder that life is fleeting. I do not know if those cast members of Casablanca I just mentioned knew Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior. For their sake I hope that they did. They seem so alive as they appear on the screen, yet every one of them is buried somewhere in a cemetery. Remembering that as I watch the film doesn't strike me as morbid, it helps me focus on my own date with eternity. This then is what it means to be **A.L.I.V.E** - Always Living In View of Eternity.

*Since, then, you have been raised with Christ,  
set your hearts on things above,  
where Christ is seated at the right hand of God.  
Set your minds on things above,  
not on earthly things.  
For you died,  
and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.  
When Christ, who is your life, appears,  
then you also will appear with Him in glory.  
- Colossians 3:1-4*

P.S. What is your most cherished material possession? Whatever it is, it will someday be consumed with fire (II Peter 3:10-12), unless it wears out or rusts our first. This doesn't mean we can't enjoy what we have, but it would be the height of folly to invest too much of our time and loyalties into things that will not be in eternity with us.