



“Ending Well”
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I. The End of David’s Life – A Time to Take Stock

A. David’s Achievements

- Restored Israel’s confidence and hope fighting against Goliath.
- Served as an accomplished military officer under King Saul.
- Faithfully shepherded 600 men and women while on the run.
- Established a new capital city for the nation.
- Refused to deviate from God’s plan for his life when he wanted to build a temple and God said no.
- Humbled himself before God and repented after his greatest sin.
- Established a kingdom secure from all surrounding enemies.
- Established a lasting dynasty that would go on to bring the promised Messiah into the world to save us from our sins.

B. David’s Words of Wisdom for Solomon

When David’s time to die was near, he told his son Solomon, “I am going the way of all the earth. So be strong. Show yourself to be a man. Do what the Lord your God tells you. Walk in His ways. Keep all His Laws and His Word, by what is written in the Law of Moses. Then you will do well in all that you do and in every place you go. Then the Lord will keep His promise to me. He has said to me, ‘Your sons must be careful of their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and soul. If they do, you will never be without a man on the throne of Israel.’”

1 Kings 2:1-4 (NLV)

David’s Advice: _____

“I still believe that standing up for the truth of God is the greatest thing in the world. This is the end of life. The end of life is not to be happy. The end of life is not to achieve pleasure and avoid pain. **The end of life is to do the will of God,** come what may.”

— Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

C. David's Three Unresolved Regrets

"Now you know what Zeruiah's son Joab did to me. You know what he did to the two captains of the armies of Israel. He killed Abner the son of Ner, and Amasa the son of Jether in the time of peace as if it were in the time of war. He put the blood of war on his belt and on the shoes of his feet. So act with wisdom. Do not let his gray hair go down to the grave in peace."

1 Kings 2:5-6 (NLV)

Regret #1: _____

How do we tell the difference between justice and revenge?

**Revenge = Self-Focused
Justice = Kingdom-Focused**

"But show kindness to the sons of Barzillai the Gileadite. Let them be among those who eat at your table. For they helped me when I ran from your brother Absalom."

1 Kings 2:7 (NLV)

Regret #2: _____

"And remember, you have with you Shimei son of Gera, the Benjamite from Bahurim, who called down bitter curses on me the day I went to Mahanaim. When he came down to meet me at the Jordan, I swore to him by the LORD: 'I will not put you to death by the sword.' But now, do not consider him innocent. You are a man of wisdom; you will know what to do to him."

1 Kings 2:8-9 (NIV)

Regret #3: _____

David left some work unfinished because he did not put God first in his life as it concerned Joab, Barzillai, and Shimei. It was up to Solomon to put God first and finish what David left unresolved.

II. How do we end well? Ending well involves...

A. _____ and _____

God's Word is living and powerful. It is sharper than a sword that cuts both ways. It cuts straight into where the soul and spirit meet and it divides them. It cuts into the joints and bones. It tells what the heart is thinking about and what it wants to do. Hebrews 4:12 (NLV)

B. _____ your _____

And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28 (NIV)

C. Working to _____ the _____

Go home and wash up. Clean up your act. Sweep your lives clean of your evildoings so I don't have to look at them any longer. Say no to wrong. Learn to do good. Work for justice. Help the down-and-out. Stand up for the homeless. Go to bat for the defenseless. Isaiah 1:16-17 (MSG)

D. _____ on what you've _____

Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

Colossians 3:16 (ESV)

E. _____ with your _____

Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. Proverbs 3:5-6 (NIV)

David's life and death points to Jesus who cried out at the end of his life:

"It is finished."

Jesus _____ all that we leave _____

Answer key

David's Advice: Put God first in your life

Regret #1: JUSTICE DEFERRED

Regret #2: GRATITUDE DEFERRED

Regret #3: CORRECTION DEFERRED

A. REFLECTION and CONFESSION

B. OWNING your FAILURES

C. Working to RIGHT the WRONGS

D. PASSING on what you've LEARNED

E. TRUSTING GOD with your LIFE

Jesus RESOLVES all that we leave UNRESOLVED