

# PARK HEIGHTS CHURCH OF CHRIST

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*Thus Saith the Lord*

## PRIORITIES AND DEATH

By Jeff Sweeten

It is not pleasant moment, a strain just to communicate. Desperation, hopelessness, frustration and anger all make their appearance. And, words of intended comfort and consolation are woefully inadequate (cf. Job 4-37); all the sympathies and all the concerns in the world do not even begin to address the issue. Such can be the scenario when a person sits with friends and family, having discovered, "I have cancer."

Of a sudden, a whole new set of priorities bursts onto the scene when one finds out that tomorrow is a "maybe" at best; terminal illness is like that. And, the soberness in realizing that a great many of those things about which one has stressed over for what seems like forever are no longer important and, in fact, don't even bump the meter. What I wear, what I drive, or what social clique I run with is of little consequence now and, frankly, never should have been; that realization is a stark truth long ignored but pressed front and center in what is left of one's existence on this planet. Now, the target is to live today; tomorrow-isn't-a-given is the new you. At times like these, it is comforting to be able to say, "I am a Christian."

A Christian does not carry the burden of a long life lived in sin for which one must now rush to make amends. Having "*fought a good fight*," a Christian has "*finished the course (and) kept the faith*" (2 Timothy 4:7). The hope of heaven stands before them as an anticipated life-goal becoming a reality, beckoning the saint into the perfect peace and presence of God.

Implied in the statement, "I am a Christian," is an invitation, "Don't you wish you were one, too?" When one loves the Lord, "things" are not as important as souls, and one lives life with eyes on heaven, doing one's best to take someone along. It is a pity that it takes tragedy for some to realize the priority Jesus should have in their life. It is a joy when you've lived your whole life in anticipation of being with Jesus forever. What is important to you? "*So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom*" (Psalm 90:12). If you knew your days were numbered, where would your priorities be?

**JOIN US ON SUNDAY AND WEDNESDAY!**

**SUNDAY: 9:30 a.m. Bible Class • 10:25 a.m. Morning Worship • 1:30 p.m. Afternoon Worship**

**WEDNESDAY: 7:00 p.m. Bible Study • Contact the minister at 254-370-4130**