

The Messenger



“... How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!” Romans 10:15

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Troubled Over Death

by Connie W. Adams

“And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many” (Heb. 9:27-28). Death is a common experience of all, whether rich or poor, mighty or weak, famous or little known.

Yet, many never think about it until they are faced with an incurable disease, or the death of a friend or family member. The very thought of it strikes terror to the hearts of many. Even those faithful to the Lord and who die in hope, want to put it off as long as possible.

Things We Need to Know

1. **All living things die.** Man has this in common with the animal creation. “For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them; as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast; for all is vanity. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all return to dust again. Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?” (Eccl. 3:19-21). Both man and beast have breath. They both came from dust and shall return to dust. But the spirit of man ascends at death and that of the beast does not.
2. **Death severs our participation in what continues in the earth.** “For the living know that they shall die; but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in anything that is done under the sun” (Eccl. 9:5-6). This passage does not teach that we are unconscious in death, but simply that when death occurs, we have no more part in what takes place in the earth.
3. **When the body returns to dust, the spirit returns to God.** There is life after death, in a different realm and on another plane. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was; and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Eccl. 12:7).
4. **At best, life is short.** James said, “For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away” (Jas. 4:14). A Psalmist said, “The days of our years are threescore and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away” (Ps. 90:10).

5. **While there is a natural aging process which changes everything from the strength of the hands and legs, voice, sight, color of the hair, and function of the teeth, there is also the potential for the untimely death, the unexpected and accidental.** Consider Ecclesiastes 12:1-7 in that light. Some of us will live to old age and some will die younger and before the normal aging process is completed. That is just how it is.



A RENEWED LIFE

by James LeFan

Do you feel that your spiritual life is lacking in depth and dedication? Are you displeased with your rate of spiritual development? Any Christian who so desires may experience a radical spiritual rebirth. The important question is how? Where do I start? Here are some suggestions.

1. Get thoroughly dissatisfied with yourself. Spiritual progress cannot be made until a need for improvement is seen.
2. Carefully determine the areas in your life where you need to make changes and begin now to make them.
3. Do a thorough job of repenting. Let godly sorrow do its healing work. Where sin has been of a public nature, let a public confession be made.
4. Make a definite place in your life for daily worship. Do not neglect prayer and Bible study for any cause. Never be too tired or too busy to spend some time alone with God.
5. Deliberately narrow your interest. You must decide what is most important to this renewed life and invest your time accordingly. There are many activities and projects which use up time and energy but bring you no nearer to God.
6. Begin immediately some definite labor for Christ. Be sure that time is devoted each week to the Lord's work.
7. Trust the Lord. Begin to expect a resurgence of spiritual power and joy. The Lord will not disappoint you.

News and Notes:

Remember to check the prayer list for those with ongoing spiritual weaknesses and physical illnesses.

"...Pray for one another...The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much." James 5:16