

“THE DEATH OF SAINT AND SINNER”

Text: *(II Kings 20:1-3) “In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live. 2 Then he turned his face to the wall, and prayed unto the LORD, saying, 3 I beseech thee, O LORD, remember now how I have walked before thee in truth and with a perfect heart, and have done that which is good in thy sight. And Hezekiah wept sore.”*

Introduction: Here is a man who is told to “*set his house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.*” God graciously gave him a warning of his approaching death, and gave him time to make preparation for it.

Now, there are many people today who prepare for their own death in material ways. (1) Some purchase **life insurance** and name loved ones as the beneficiaries. (2) Some purchase **cemetery lots, burial insurance**, and some even **prearrange their funeral in great detail**, even to the point of choosing the clothing in which they want to be buried. (3) Some make **a will to settle their business affairs**, and to name who will receive their **house, land, money, or heirlooms** that have been possessed for generations.

These preparations are well and good, but what about **spiritual preparation for eternity?** My friends, we need to be concerned about getting our “*spiritual house in order,*” and not merely the material things of this life! And, in order to impress upon you the importance of “*spiritual preparation*” I want to discuss with you “*The Death Of Saint And Sinner.*” Now, in leading this study, I’m going to ask each of you to look very seriously at your own approaching death, so that you can make any preparation that is needed. The reason why you need to consider this matter is, first of all, because of the

I. BREVITY OF LIFE AND THE TIME OF DEATH IS UNCERTAIN:

A. The Bible Clearly Teaches That You And I Are Going To Die:

1. *(Hebrews 9:27) “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.”*
2. Just like Hezekiah, God warns that we will “*die, and not live!*”

B. While Death Is Certain, The Time Of Our Death Is Uncertain:

1. *(James 4:13-17) “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth*

- for a little time, and then vanisheth away. 15 For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that. 16 But now ye rejoice in your boastings: all such rejoicing is evil. 17 Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”* (Tarot Cards Useless)
2. Many people die suddenly, having made no preparation.
 3. Even young people die unexpectedly. *(Cite Examples)*

II. CAN'T PREVENT OUR COMING DEATH - CAN PREPARE:

A. Before Jesus Came The Devil Had The Power Of Death:

1. *(Hebrews 2:14-15) “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 And deliver hem who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.”*
2. Every one from Adam on down was held captive by Satan.

B. Jesus Christ Is The Only One Who Can Give Hope At Death:

1. *(1 Peter 1:3-4) “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.”*
2. You must be a faithful Christian (*saint*) to have this hope!

III. THREE VIEWS OF THE DEATH OF SAINT AND SINNER:

A. How God Views The Death Of Both The Saint And Sinner:

1. How does God view the death of the *sinner*? *(Is He glad?)*
(Ezekiel 33:11) “Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked . . . “
 - a. Since the *fall*, Satan has been trying to ruin God’s creation.
(John 8:44) “Ye are of your father the devil, and the lusts of your father ye will do. He was a murderer from the beginning, and abode not in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.”
 - b. *(John 10:10) “The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly.”*
 - c. God takes no pleasure in the death of the sinner. **(Ruined!)**

2. **How does God view the death of the saint? (Is He saddened?)**
 - a. It may seem strange, but it gives God pleasure when a saint dies! **(Psalm 116:15) “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”**
 - b. Why is this? How can God be happy when a child of God dies?
 - c. He’s happy because He’s able to give them the glory of heaven! **(Matthew 25:31-34) “When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory: 32 And before him shall be gathered all nations: and he shall separate them one from another, as a shepherd divideth his sheep from the goats: 33 And he shall set the sheep on his right hand, but the goats on the left. 34 Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.”**
 - d. He is happy because Satan was not able to ruin the saint’s soul!

B. How Those Who Have Died View Their Own Death: (Conscious?)
(Luke 16:19-22) “There was a certain rich man, which was clothed in purple and fine linen, and fared sumptuously every day: 20 And there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, which was laid at his gate, full of sores, 21 And desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table: moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. 22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.” (Comment about these two men - Parable or Historical Event)

1. **How the sinner who has died is able to view his/her own death:**
 - a. He is in torment immediately. *(Talk about “hell” - hades)*
(Luke 16:23-25) “And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame. 25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”
 - b. There is no relief for his suffering. *(Nothing worse - dying in sin)*
(Luke 16:26) “And beside all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed: so that they which would pass from hence to you cannot; neither can they pass to us, that would come from thence.” (There’s no such thing as “Purgatory”)
 - c. Since he can’t be helped, he begins to worry about loved ones.
(Luke 16:27-31) “Then he said, I pray thee therefore, father, that thou wouldest send him to my father's house: 28 For I 4-

have five brethren; that he may testify unto them, lest they also come into this place of torment. 29 Abraham saith unto him, They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them. 30 And he said, Nay, father Abraham: but if one went unto them from the dead, they will repent. 31 And he said unto him, If they hear not Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded, though one rose from the dead.”

- d. Think about how you are now living! (*It has an effect on others*)
 - e. Fathers and mothers - Consider your influence on the children!
 - f. Young people - Think about brothers, sisters, schoolmates, etc.
2. **How the “saint” who has died is able to view his/her own death:**
- a. They have been “*carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom.*” (*Luke 16:22*) “*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried.*”
 - b. They are immediately comforted in presence of all the righteous. (*Luke 16:25*) “*But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.*”
 - c. They are at rest and much happier than we could ever imagine! (*Revelation 14:13*) “*And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*”
 - d. They are not worried about their influence on others. (*rich man*)
 - e. Unlike the rich man, they long to see their loved ones at death!

C. How Those Who Are Left Behind View The Death Of Loved Ones:

1. **How those left behind view the death of a loved one: (Sinner?)**
- a. They have great sorrow because there is no *hope* for loved one. (*John 8:24, 21*) (24) “*I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins*” . . . (21) “*Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*”
 - b. At the funeral of such a loved one, if we are a Christian and they died a sinner, when we come up by the casket it’s “**goodbye!**”
2. **How those left behind view the death of a loved one: (Saint?)**
- a. There is sorrow, but it’s because we can’t be with them. (*Earth*) (*Acts 20:25,36-38*) (25) “*And now, behold, I know that ye all, among whom I have gone preaching the kingdom of God, shall see my face no more.*” . . . (36) “*And when he had thus spoken, he kneeled down, and prayed with them all. 37 And they all wept sore, and fell on Paul’s neck, and kissed him, 38 Sorrowing most of all for the words which he spake, that they should see his face no more. And they accompanied him unto the ship.*”

- b. Our sorrow is tempered by the hope that we have for them. *(I Thessalonians 4:13-18) “But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. 14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. 18 Wherefore comfort one another with these words.”*
- c. At the funeral of such a loved one, if we are a Christian and they died as a Christian, when we come up by the casket we don't have to say “*goodbye!*” - We can confidently say, “*I'll be seeing you!*”

Conclusion: As you view the fact of your own approaching death, do you need to *set your house in order*? Beloved, let me ask you a few questions:

(1) How would God view your death if you died at this very moment?

(Would he say, “*I have no pleasure,*” or would he find it “*precious.*”)

(2) How would you view your own death if you died at this moment?

(Would you be immediately in “*torment,*” or in “*comfort and at rest?*”)

(3) How would your loved ones view your death if you died tonight?

(If Christians, would they say “*goodbye*” or “*I'll be seeing you?*”)

Invitation: If you honestly need to “*set thine house in order*” would you come to Christ, while we stand together for the song of invitation!