

What Death Does Not Do

Hebrews 9:27-28

1

Introduction

- Physical death is a certainty
- All will die if Christ does not come first – Hebrews 9:27, “it is appointed”
- This fact is recognized by the living – Ecclesiastes 9:1-6, “the living know”
- Death is experienced by man and animal alike – Ecclesiastes 3:19-21, “... is the same”
- Many things could be said about death
- But what does death NOT DO?

2

2

Death Does Not:

Make Sin Right

- All men will be judged – Hebrews 9:27
- This judgment will be righteous judgment – Acts 17:30-31, “judge the world in righteousness”
- The works of every man will be examined in judgment – Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, “every deed into judgment”
- We will stand before Christ when judged – II Corinthians 5:10, “we must all appear”
- From what is written on some headstones, we might conclude that only good people die – Matthew 7:21-23, “Not everyone who says to me ...”³

3

Death Does Not:

End One’s Influence

- We have a great influence on others by our lives
 - Hebrews 11:4, “he still speaks”
 - Revelation 14:13, “their deeds follow them”
- Tabitha was remembered for her “good works and acts of charity” – Acts 9:36-42
- Perhaps it was said by her friends that “it was easier to be good when she was around”
- Her legacy lived on after her death. This woman had a great influence on those she left behind
- What influence do we have on others?

4

4

Death Does Not:

Mean Non-existence

- Some denominations believe that the soul ends at death
 - Jehovah’s Witnesses teach annihilation and the Seventh-day Adventists teach that the soul “sleeps”
- The Bible teaches the soul does not cease to exist at death – Luke 16:22-23, “carried by the angels”
 - James 2:26, “body apart from the spirit is dead”
 - Matthew 22:32, “not the God of the dead”
 - Matthew 10:28, “both soul and body in hell”
 - Ecclesiastes 12:5, 7, “to his eternal home ... to God”
 - II Corinthians 4:17-18, “eternal weight of glory”⁵

5

Death Does Not:

Erase One’s Memory

- There was recognition in the Hadean realm – Luke 16:22-30, “saw Abraham far off”
- It is said of some Old Testament characters – “he was gathered to his people”
 - Abraham – Genesis 25:8, “gathered to his people”
 - Ishmael – Genesis 25:17, “gathered to his people”
 - Jacob – Genesis 49:29, “gathered to my people”
 - Moses – Deuteronomy 32:50, “gathered to your people”
- This phrase indicates a reunion of sorts in the Hadean realm of those who die

6

6

Death Does Not:

Offer A Second Chance

- Some denominations, such as the Catholics and Mormons, teach “second chance after death” doctrines
- The rich man did not have a second chance, and neither will we
 - Luke 16:25-31, “none may cross from there to us”
- Now is the time to prepare for our day of death
 - II Corinthians 6:2, “now is the day of salvation”
 - Romans 1:16-17, “The righteous shall live by faith”
 - Romans 6:17-18, “obedient from the heart”

7

Death Does Not:

Separate Us From God’s Love

- Romans 8:38-39, “... nor anything else ... will be able to separate us from the love of God”
- God’s love never ceases for man
 - II Peter 3:9, “not wishing that any should perish”
 - John 3:16, “should not perish”
 - I John. 4:9, “live through him”
 - Romans 5:6-8, “Christ died for us”

8

Death Does Not:

Exempt One From Judgment

- Hebrews 9:27, “after that comes judgment”
- No man will miss God’s appointed day of judgment
 - II Corinthians 5:10, “we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ”

9

Death Does Not:

Exempt Unbelievers From The Wrath Of God

- God is longsuffering but not forever suffering
 - II Peter 3:9-11, “patient toward you”
- He will come ...
 - “with fire and sulfur” – Revelation 21:8
 - “in flaming fire” – II Thessalonians 1:7-12
 - And we will be “knowing the fear of the Lord” – II Corinthians 5:11
 - And we will see that “the righteous is scarcely saved” – I Peter 4:17-19
 - And “the last state has become worse ...” – II Peter 2:20-21

10

Conclusion

- Let us strive to properly evaluate death
- Be prepared for it BEFORE it comes
 - I Peter 1:24, “**All flesh is like grass** and all its glory like the flower of grass. The grass withers, and the flower falls”
 - James 1:9-12, “when he has stood the test”
 - James 4:13-15, “What is your life?”

11

Conclusion

Death Does Not:

- Make Sin Right
- End One’s Influence
- Mean Non-existence
- Erase One’s Memory
- Offer A Second Chance
- Separate Us From God’s Love
- Exempt One From Judgment
- Exempt Unbelievers From The Wrath Of God

12

How To Prepare:

- Hear the Word of God
 - Romans 10:8 – “But what does it say? ‘The word is near you, in your mouth and in your heart’ (that is, the word of faith that we proclaim)”
- Believe that Jesus is the Savior
 - Romans 10:11 – “For the Scripture says, ‘Everyone who believes in him will not be put to shame.’”

13

How To Prepare:

- Repent of your sins
 - Acts 3:19 – “Repent therefore, and turn again, that your sins may be blotted out”
- Confess that Jesus is the Son of God
 - I John 4:15 – “Whoever confesses that Jesus is the Son of God, God abides in him, and he in God.”

14

How To Prepare:

- Be immersed in water (baptized)
 - Acts 2:38 – “And Peter said to them, ‘Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.’”
- Remain faithful
 - Hebrews 3:14 – “For we share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original confidence firm to the end.”

15