

Series:

Title: What Happens When I Die?

Text: (Ecc 7:1-3)

Pastor Mix, What happens when I die?

Solomon was depressed to the point that he looked forward to death. - **Sin** brings despair and hopelessness.

Vs 2 Funerals serve the purpose to remind the living of the inevitability of death and evaluate the time left.

“A wise person thinks about his own death.”

What a dismal outlook!

Yet, that is where Solomon’s backsliding took him.

We will talk about it later.

3 Ways to Look at Death

The Downside: Earthly View of it.

The Inside: How We feel about it Personally.

The Upside: How God Views it.

Death can be scary.

Death can be a release.

Our point of view regarding death affects our attitude about it.

The Downside View: Earthly View of it.

Death is Unavoidable:-(1 Cor 15:22a) *For as in Adam all die All Mankind Must Face It:*

Illus: The Death rate is still 1 per person.

No One Gets out of here alive prior to Christ’s Return.

Death is Undoing/Decoupling/Uprooting: (Gen 35:29) *And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.*

The spirit of man leaves his body, and that is referred to as Physical Death. (Ecc 12:7)

Physical Death is like exiting a tent:

(2 Pet 1:14) *Knowing that shortly I must put off this my tabernacle, even as our Lord Jesus Christ hath shewed me.*

Returning to dust: (Gen 3:19) (Ps 104:29)

Death Is Unsearchable: No full understanding of it.

(Job 14:14) A Change

(Ps 115:17) Going down to Silence.

(John 14:2) Being Cut Down

Death is Up to God:

(Job 7:1) *Is there not an appointed time to man upon earth? are not his days also like the days of an hireling?*

(1 Sam 2:6) *The LORD killeth, and maketh alive: he bringeth down to the grave, and bringeth up.*

Death is an Undoing/Unraveling:

(Ecc 9:10) *Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest.*

(Ecc 2:14-18) Our works are soon forgotten by the living.

The Downside View: Earthly View of it.

The Inside View: How We feel about it Personally.

In the Bible, there are 2 classes of people who sought death.

As an Escape from Misery:

Solomon was Disgusted:

Solomon had sinned to the point that he was pessimistic.

In his depressed state, Solomon suggested that a funeral was a better event than a wedding.

His perspective was that death was inevitable, “*so let’s get on with it.*”

Vs 3 To Solomon’s twisted thinking, sorrow was better than joy. He thought that such an outlook helped one to cope with reality.

Sin brings Regret.

Regret taints our view of life.

(Ps 90:12) so we are to live our days like they are our last.

Jonah was Disappointed:

(Jonah 4:8)

Job was Despairing of Life: (Job 6:8-11) (Job 10:1)

As a Graduation to Glory:

Simeon was Contented: (Luke 2:29) He saw the Messiah

Paul had No Regrets: (2 Tim 4:6-8)

Paul was Anticipating: (Phil 1:20-23)

Illus: *My dog charlie scratches at the door of my bedroom. I am not sure what it’s like, but I know my Master is there.*

As D. L. Moody approached the end of his life, he viewed Heaven as something to anticipate.

Moody wrote:

“Some day you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don’t you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal—a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body. I was born of the flesh in 1837. I was born of the Spirit in 1856. That which is born of the flesh may die. That which is born of the Spirit will live forever.”

Does he sound Discouraged, Disgusted, or Depressed? NO!

Every Christian that has invested his life in eternity can share that attitude toward Heaven.

Nothing to Fear anymore.

A little boy and his father were driving down a country road on a beautiful spring afternoon. Suddenly out of nowhere a bumblebee flew in the car window. Since the little boy was deathly allergic to bee stings he became petrified. His father quickly reached out, grabbed the bee, squeezed it in his hand, and then released it. But as soon as he let it go, the young son became frantic once again as it buzzed by the little boy.

The father sensed his son’s terror. Once again he reached out his hand, but this time he pointed to this hand. ***There, stuck in his skin was the stinger of the bee.***

“You see this?” he asked. “You don’t need to be afraid anymore. I’ve taken the sting for you.”

(1 Cor 15:55-56) *“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.”*

The Christian does not need to be afraid of death because Christ has taken the sting out of death and sin.

(1 Jn 3:2) we shall be like him.

(1 Cor 2:9) Words Fail!

The Downside View: Earthly View of it.

The Inside View: How We feel about it Personally.

The Upside View: How God Views it.

For the Lost:

It is only the 1st Death: (Rev 20:14-15)

It is Sudden Destruction: (1 Thes 5:3)

For the Saved:

It’s Precious: (Ps 116:15)

It’s Blessed: (Rev 14:13)

It’s Hopeful: (Prov 14:32)

Its a Home Coming! (2 Cor 5:6-8)

6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord. (John 14:1-3)

It’s has Heavenly Attendants: (Lk 16:22) *And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom:*

It’s a Reception to Glory (Ps 73:24)

Illus: *Death is like a majestic Ship that leaves one harbor and sails to another.*

I am standing upon the seashore.

A ship at my side spreads her white sails to the morning breeze and starts for the blue ocean.

She is an object of beauty and strength, and I stand and watch until at last she hangs like a speck of white cloud just where the sea and sky come down to mingle with each other.

Then someone at my side says, “There she goes!”

Gone where?

Gone from my sight ... that is all.

She is just as large in mast and hull and spar as she was when she left my side and just as able to bear her load of living freight to the place of destination.

Her diminished size is in me, not in her.

And just at the moment when someone at my side says, ‘There she goes!’ there are other eyes watching her coming and their voices ready to take up the glad shouts “Here she comes!”—Henry VanDyke