

ASSURANCE IN DEATH

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TEXT:

“For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing” (2Timothy 4:6-8).

Introduction:

1) We are saddened from earthly standpoint by death of a loved one or friend.

- (1) Being a Christian is the most important thing.
- (2) Being a faithful member of the Lord's church.
- (3) Having concern for souls of others.
- (4) Friend to many
- (5) Having enjoyed life & being prepared for eternal life.
- (6) “Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ”

(1Corinthians 11:1).

2) The apostle Paul had much to say about death.

- (1) To him not something fearful, or dreaded.
- (2) Knew what was on other side of death.
- (3) “For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were

dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2Corinthians 5:1-8).

- (4) “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain” (Philippians 1:21).
- (5) Paul wrote of assurance in death, (gives us comfort)

I. GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE HAVEN'T BEEN FORSAKEN

1) Christ promised to be with us in this life.

(1) “Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. But the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear ye not therefore, ye are of more value than many sparrows” (Matthew 10:29-31).

(2) “Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen” (Matthew 28:20).

2) Also when we depart from this life we go to be with Christ.

(1) "For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better" (Philippians 1:23).

(2) "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord" (2Corinthians 5:1-8).

(3) "And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit" (Acts 7:59).

3) This is a great assurance. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

II. GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT OUR SOUL CONTINUES.

1) Soul doesn't die - body does. "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also" (James 2:26).

2) When our body gets old or unfit for housing our soul, soul moves out. "For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens" (2Corinthians 5:1).

3) On Mt. of transfiguration Moses and Elijah appeared with Christ (though they had been dead).

III. GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE ARE BLESSED AND ARE AT REST.

1) "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" (Revelation 14:13). "Blessed" = supremely blest, fortunate, well off"

2) Rest - After work- welcome rest; all of life's battles are over - rest)

IV. GOD'S ASSURANCE THAT WE DO NOT EXPERIENCE ANY MORE PAIN, SUFFERING.

1) Remember Paul said - "far better"

2) No more suffering. "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (Revelation 21:4).

3) Live in world of sin, suffering - but no more in death of a Christian.

V. GOD'S ASSURANCE OF A BODILY RESURRECTION.

1). Resurrection proven fact. - Lazarus. Jesus saith unto her, "Thy brother shall rise again" (John 11:23).

2) We are also promised a bodily resurrection. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:28-29).

CONCLUSION:

1) The Christian has great assurance in death. "Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15).

2) God has promised us these things. "But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:" (Titus 2:1).

3) He gave His only begotten Son to die so that we might live with Him.

(1) "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

(2) "For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ" (Galatians 3:27).

(3) "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" (Ephesians 1:3).