

Sermon Outlines

The House of Mourning

Reading

Ecclesiastes 7

Introduction

- 1) The difference between our perspective and God's in the matter of true evaluation.
 - a) Places we do not like to frequent:
 - i) A funeral home
 - b) Places we do like to frequent:
 - i) Weddings
 - ii) Celebrations
- 2) God's evaluation:
 - a) Better to go to the house of mourning than the celebration (v. 2). Why?
 - b) We face the reality that this will be the end of all of us.
 - c) The wise individual thinks carefully about this.
 - d) Tonight we shall see the evidence of a death, the evidence that an individual has passed from death to life.

What are the ideal benefits of visiting a place of death?

We lay it to heart, that is, we stop, and take evaluation of what is life?

- a) Illus. A red light, God's stopping us on life's fast journey.
- b) We are suddenly stopped and faced with major questions.

What is life?

God had said man would die, but in what way?

- a) The cessation of the life of God.
- b) Satan's attempts to give life meaning.
- c) Physically - Arnold Schwarzenegger, if only I could then I would be happy.
- d) Abilities - Luciano Pavarotti.

Man comes to points in his life and often to the end and finds it empty.

- a) Absalom - the priority of achieving position, and the end, physical and spiritual death (2 Sam. 15:11-14; 18:33).
- b) Haman - the priority of distinguished glory, and the end, physical and spiritual death (Esther 3:1-2; 7:10).
- c) Cain - the priority of the suppression of the truth, and the end, physical and spiritual death (Gen. 4:4-11; 1 Jn. 3:12; Jude 1:11).
- d) Rich man - the priority of the good life, and the end, physical and spiritual death (Lk. 12:18-19).
- e) None of them died knowing God, in God's evaluation they were dead.

This leads to the question

- 1) Of my priorities what can I carry with me when I die?
 - a) At the funeral home, not a single coffin had a place for a wallet, bar, medal stand.
- 2) What did:
 - a) Michelangelo - carry with him of his great artistry, when he died he brought nothing.
 - b) Mozart - carry with him of his glorious music, when he died he brought nothing.
 - c) Einstein - carry with him of his great thinking ability, when he died he brought nothing.
 - d) Kerry Packer - Australia's richest man, brought nothing.

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- 3) God's evaluation:
- a) "What shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul?" (Mk. 8:36).
Nothing!
 1. life without God \ Christ is an empty existence and banishment from God forever.

Questions and Answers

- 1) James what is your life?
 - a) In relation to its duration - "For what *is* your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" (Jam. 4:14).
 - b) "As for man, his days are as grass: as a flower of the field, so he flourisheth (Psa. 103:15).
 - c) "Man is like to vanity: his days are as a shadow that passeth away" (Psa. 144:4).
 - d) "For who knoweth what is good for man in this life, all the days of his vain life which he spendeth as a shadow? for who can tell a man what shall be after him under the sun?" (Ecc. 6:12)
- 2) God's answer is three fold:
 - a) Get right priorities - "Prepare to meet thy God" (Amos 4:12). How?
 - b) "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men everywhere to repent" (Acts 17:30).
 - c) "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel" (Mk. 1:15).

**May God grant us good understanding as He, by His Holy Spirit, deigns to guide us into all truth.
John 16:13**

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