

Scriptural Truths

E-Mail Meditations

The Lord May Come . . . Perhaps Today . . . Behold, I Come Quickly . . . Rev. 22:7

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Beyond The Door Called Death - Part 1

There is something about death, the stone frozen coldness of the body, lying like a waxen figure, and yet it is different, it exudes an uncomfortableness to almost all of us. Perhaps it is the stark reminder that no matter how made up the body is, the individual is dead. Or, perhaps it is a face to face realization that unless the Lord comes soon, this will be the lot of us all. While musing on the reality of facing death, the writer of Ecclesiastes wrote: "It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart" (Ecc. 7:2). It has well been said, "Time ends . . . and then eternity".

I received this email from my son who is a police officer in Edmonton.

This morning at 8:21 AM, I entered the morgue in Edmonton as I have done before, with the task of measuring a deceased 55 year old lady killed in a collision. As my coworker photographed the lady, the staff brought in another body and unzipped the bag. There lay a young 18 year old girl who also lost her life suddenly and unexpectedly. I stood there, on one side of me a slightly older woman who was a mother, and on the other side a young lady, someones child, who barely had a chance to live. I do not believe the two of them ever met, but this I do know, neither one went out from their residence and expected to die.

They had entered the door of death. I never knew either of them and I have no way of knowing if they died in their sins or knew the Lord, but I do know that wherever they entered at that moment, it is sealed for all eternity.

A child asked his mother, "Mom, at what age do people die?" She told him to go to the nearest graveyard and see for himself. He did that, and then responded, "People die at every age". It was a revelation for the child that death comes at all ages. It may be just a story, yet it does teach a lesson. How often we ignore the fact that death can occur at any moment. When thinking of this, David wrote: "There is but a step between me and death" (1 Sam. 20:3), and, "For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again" (2 Sam. 14:14).

With the passing of the years one begins to appreciate more fully the truths of the scriptures when it is written that life is:

Like a:	References
• Shadow	• 1 Chron. 29:15; Job 8:9
• Weaver's shuttle	• Job 7:6

Like a:	References
• Post (a messenger)	• Job 9:25
• Tale that is told	• Psa. 90:9
• Withered grass	• Psa. 102:11; 103:15
• Vapour that vanisheth	• Jam. 4:14

Job asked: “Man dieth and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where is he?” (Job 14:10); and Isaiah wrote: “Mine age is departed, and is removed from me as a shepherd’s tent” (Isa. 38:12). Those women whose bodies lay in the morgue where my son was, never realized how soon nor how quickly their tent would be removed and how soon they would be in eternity. When people are aware that they are dying, they recognize that so many things have been done for the last time. Looking back some say the following sentiments:

- a) I wish I’d had the courage to live a life true to myself, not the life others expected of me.
- b) I wish I hadn’t worked so hard.
- c) I wish I’d had the courage to express my feelings.
- d) I wish I had stayed in touch with my friends.
- e) I wish I had given more time and energy to the things eternal.
- f) Life has been so wasted.

[Death Is The Door To Another World](#)

Death is a door to another sphere of life. It is the end of our earthly existence just as our birth was the end of our womb experience and existence. The question asked is, “What is that other world like, what is beyond the door?” In this paper I am considering the first part of those who are redeemed with the precious blood of the Lord.

There are several scriptures which tell something of what it is like beyond the door of death, but they are greatly restricted to human terminology and earthly experiences. I could never fully describe to a blind individual the glory of a tropical sunset, nor a deaf person the richness of a Beethoven concerto. How much less could Paul, who was caught up to the third heaven, and informed his readers that he heard and saw things which cannot be uttered (2 Cor. 12:4). It seems to me that he had the same background in mind when he said: “Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love Him” (1 Cor. 2:9).

Nevertheless, the scriptures do give us some insights into that “Land of fadeless day”, and what a place it must be. Some of us have watched a loved one enter that door, at times it was almost imperceptible exactly when they entered, there was no struggle, but like a little child they just fell asleep. For some, their faces lit up with delight when (I believe) getting their first glimpse of the lovely man of Calvary. At that moment they were:

- a) “Absent from the body . . . present with the Lord” (2 Cor. 5:8). The word “present” means to be “at home”. Here the Lord cannot always be at home with me because I am out of alignment with his character. But, when I get there, not only will the Lord be at home with me, but I shall be at home with Him.
- b) “With Christ; which is far better” (Phil. 1:23). How much better? Lightfoot calls it a “triple comparative”. Paul does not just say it is “better”, he adds another word, “far better”, then (as the Greek makes clear) another word “very far better”. Bengal translates it, “To be with Christ which is far, far better”. The truth is, words utterly fail to convey the truth. It is “far better” for they will never again know grief, never again be grieved by sin, never again to know the conflict of sin within.
- c) In that place of rest (Rev. 14:13). In the context of Revelation 14, the saints have known what it is to be hunted like prey (Rev. 12:13-17) and slaughtered (Rev. 6:9), incapable of buying or selling the basic necessities of life (Rev. 13:17). Then all these will be things of the past. The rest from the burden of sins they have known (Matt. 11:28-29), now they enter the rest of His peace (Heb. 4:9) in all its fulness. There is a hymn which my father loved, and I can still see him sitting at the piano and singing it:

*“When all my labours and trials are ore, And I am safe on that beautiful shore,
Just to be near the dear Lord I adore, will through the ages be glory for me”*

- d) Seeing “His face” (Rev. 22:4). While in this vale of sorrows our hearts are drawn to Him in affection, we may even love Him, but what will it be to see Him “face to face”? As the hymn-writer wrote:

*“Face to face with Christ my Saviour, face to face what shall it be,
When with rapture I behold Him, Jesus Christ who died for me”*

Never again ever to know the emptiness of having left Him, nor the absence of the smile of His approval, but to gaze with adoring wonder on Him for all eternity.

- e) Entering “My Father’s house” (Jn. 14:2). The Lord said: “My house shall be called of all nations the house of prayer” (Mk. 11:17). In the glories of Heaven there are people from every “kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation” (Rev. 5:9; 14:6). There will be no sectarian groupings, no sects or groups of particular names or church affiliations, all that will be past. It will be a home of fellowship between all the people God and God himself.
- f) Entering Paradise (2 Cor. 12:4). The word means royal parks or pleasure grounds. Because of the effect sin has had on this world we cannot comprehend what Eden was like. It must have been beautiful with its colours, freshness, clarity, and fragrances. Then the perfections of Heaven must surely excel that which earth ever was.
- g) Entering Glory (Heb. 2:10).
- i) Paul informs his readers that we “rejoice in hope of the glory of God” (Rom. 5:2)
 - ii) The Lord prayed that we would “Behold my glory” (Jn. 17:24)
 - iii) When dying, Stephen saw “the glory of God” (Acts 7:55)
 - iv) Paul writes: “We speak the wisdom of God . . . unto our glory” (1 Cor. 2:7) and we shall be among the children (Heb. 2:13) who will be to “the praise of His glory” (Eph. 1:12), through the riches of “the glory of His grace” (Eph. 1:6).
- h) Entering Heaven (Heb. 9:24). What will make “Heaven” Heaven? The street of gold? The release from all affliction? The joy of seeing loved ones? To me, that which will make “Heaven” Heaven, will be the bodily presence of the Lord. Some years ago I went home to Ireland. I went to 45 Willesden Park, but it was not as it had been. To me it was just a shell, for Dad and mum were no longer there. It was them that made that house “home”.
- i) Going within the veil (Heb. 6:19). In the Old Testament the High Priest could only enter within the veil once every year, but our “Forerunner” has entered in, and because of His entrance as our Forerunner, we shall enter in also.

Going back to the opening statements of my son, finishing his comments he wrote something which is good for all to consider. Next time you leave home, or your kids leave for school, or your spouse leaves for work, tell them you love them because it could be the last time they hear it from you, or the last time you may be able to ever convey that message which they can consciously hear.

Space forbids the development of what it is like where the redeemed are. Next month, Lord willing, we will continue on this subject.

. . . . Rowan Jennings

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