

THINK ON THESE THINGS (Philippians 4:8)

Death

OUR FAMILY NEWS

Pray: Tommy Betti (he was tested for Covid) Josiah, Wayne and Cathy, Helen Spicer, Peggy, Cindy Lee (Nicole Owen's sister) All health care providers and especially for Scott and his family.

Traveling/Working: Slope workers. Ben, Carla and family are in TN. They plan to return in early December.

Ladies Class: The Ladies Class has started up again. It is held here at the church's building. See Terry Campbell for details.

Plan Ahead: The Annual Ladies Tea and Ornament Exchange will be hosted by Jennifer Kelly and will be held on Saturday December 5, 2020 beginning at 6:30 PM. Then on Sunday December 6, 2020 she will host a Girls Tea and Ornament Exchange beginning at 6:30 PM.

Radio Programs: Listen to "Searching the Scriptures", our weekly radio program and our "One Minute for God" series which airs three times a day six days a week on KMBQ 99.7.

Today's Scripture: "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" **1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (KJV)**

Wisdom for Today: "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me." **Psalm 23:4 (KJV)**

Attendance Last Sunday 42: Our Record: 107

For more detail, please go to the web site.

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God's Plan of Salvation

Hear..... Romans 10:17
 Believe..... Mark 16:16, Hebrews 11:1-6
 Repent..... Acts 2:38, II Corinthians 7:10
 Confess..... Romans 10:9-10, Matthew 10:32-33
 Be Baptized Mark 16:16, Acts 22:16
 Arise & Walk in Newness of Life Romans 6:4

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth..."

CONTACT INFORMATION

MEETING TIMES
Sunday:
 Bible Classes: 10AM
 AM Worship: 11AM
 PM Worship: 5PM
Wednesday:
 Bible Study: 7PM

OFFICE HOURS
 Tue./Thur. Call or Ck Web

COME JOIN US!
 The church of Christ at Wasilla meets at:
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Visit our website at:
www.churchofchristwasilla.com

Visitors Always Welcome; Members Expected

The Christians Attitude Toward Death

There is an old folk song with the title "Oh Death". It has been covered by several singers, but the one I like best is an au-Capella version that is used in the movie "Oh Brother Where Art Thou". Ralph Stanley sang it for the movie. The lyrics, in part are: "oh death, Whooooah death, Won't you spare me over 'til a another year? Well what is this that I cant see With ice cold hands taking hold of me. Well I am death none can excel I'll open the door to heaven or hell. Whoa death someone would pray Could you wait to call me another day?" Then the last stanza is "Oh death please consider my age. Please don't take me at this stage. My wealth is all at your command If you will move your icy hands. Oh the young, the rich, or poor, No wealth no land no silver or gold Nothing satisfies me but your soul. Ooh death Whooooah death Won't you spare me over 'til a another year?" I suspect that this is the attitude of a lot of people when death is near. At that time, most people would give anything for just a few more days of life.

Death is, of course, something that most people are either afraid of or if not afraid they are at least concerned about it. This fear or concern stems from the fact that they don't know what to expect. Solomon in **Ecclesiastes 1:4 (KJV)** makes the following statement: "One generation passeth away, and another generation cometh: but the earth abideth for ever." Then a little later he writes "Then I hated all my labor in which I had toiled under the sun, because I must leave it to the man who will come after me. And who knows whether he will be wise or a fool? Yet he will rule over all my labor in which I toiled and in which I have shown myself wise under the sun. This also is vanity. Therefore I turned my heart and despaired of all the labor in which I had toiled under the sun. For there is a man whose labor is with wisdom, knowledge, and skill; yet he must leave his heritage to a man who has not labored for it. This also is vanity and a great evil. For what has man for all his labor, and for the striving of his heart with which he has toiled under the sun?" **Ecclesiastes 2:18-22 (NKJV)**

Solomon, with his wisdom, knew that he would eventually die and the next generation would assume ownership of all that he had accomplished in his life. All his wealth, all the buildings, all the vineyards he had planted would belong to someone else. It doesn't matter how important you are, what job you have or how rich you may be, death will come and another will take your place unless Christ returns first. And life will go on. David in Psalm 6 made a statement that is true today, listen to him "For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?" **Psalm 6:5 (KJV)**

But what should our attitude as Christians be toward death? Jesus tells us what happens within the first second of our death. "There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his



Sermon by: Tom Betti ; Article by: Bill Beebe

gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man's table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores. So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom." **Luke 16:19-23 (NKJV)** At the point of death we will go to Hades and be either with Abraham and the saved throughout history or go to torment and be there with the lost. Then Paul tells us what will happen when Jesus returns in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18. Jesus also told us what we can expect when we face judgment in Matthew 25:31-46, some will inherit the kingdom that God has prepared for them, the rest will be sent to eternal punishment.

One of the most comforting passages in the entire Bible, in my opinion, is **John 14:1-5 (NKJV)** "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know." Think about this for a moment, God Himself is preparing a place for us after this life is over. John also tells what this place looks like in the only words he could use to describe it. In Revelation 21:9-22:5. In his attempt to describe what he saw he says that the streets are pure gold, that the walls of the city are garnished with twelve types of precious stones and the gates of the city are made of a single Peral. Then he tells us that the river of life is flowing from the throne of God through the city and on either side of it is growing the tree of life. Now think about it, God is preparing us a dwelling place with Him, and the translators of the King James Version translated that dwelling place as a "mansion". We shouldn't expect any less from God.

So to answer the question, what should a Christians attitude toward death be? It should be this: "So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory.⁵⁵ O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" **1 Corinthians 15:54-55 (KJV)** Death is not something that Christians should fear, it is just a door through which we go to inherit what God has prepared for us. On the other hand, those outside of Christ should be really afraid of death because it will be a door that opens to torment and eternal punishment for them.

Are you a Christian today? If not death should be a fearful thing for you to think about. Why not become a Christian and remove that fear from your life today?

Oh, death where is thy sting?