

The Exit Ramps of Life

What Happens After We Die? (1)

Scripture Reading: *Hebrews 9:24-28*

Introduction:

- A. "God asks no man whether he will accept life. That is not the choice. You *must* take it. The only choice is *how*." (*Life Thoughts*, Henry Ward Beecher)
- B. Our prayer should be David's: "O LORD, make me know my end and what is the measure of my days; let me know how fleeting I am!" (*Psa 39:4*)
- C. What happens after we die depends upon which exit ramp we take out of life on this earth.

I. "Let the children come to me..."

- A. We get a glimpse into how God looks at children in *Luke 18:15-17*.
- B. David's attitude when his child had died is also very revealing (*2 Samuel 12:15-23*).
- C. Ultimately, we are all going to be accountable for our own actions (*Ezekiel 18:20*).
- D. Some enter physical death in a state of original innocence.

II. "Each person is tempted..."

- A. James outlines the predictably sad progression of sin in *James 1:12-18*.
- B. John has straightforward words about sin in *1 John 1:5-10* and *3:8*.
- C. All of humanity chooses to forsake the state of original innocence for rebellion (*Rom 3:23*)
- D. Some enter physical death in a state of spiritual death (*Isaiah 59:1-2*).

III. "He has delivered us from the domain of darkness..."

- A. These facts are what makes the gospel so very precious (*Colossians 1:9-14*).
- B. God's desire has always been that people would forsake sin and live (*Ezek 18:20-23*).
- C. The pathway for mankind's redemption is revealed throughout the New Testament.
- D. Some enter physical death in a state of reconciliation and faithfulness to God (*Rev 2:10*).

IV. "If, after they have escaped...they are again entangled..."

- A. Peter has an urgent warning for those who have been rescued by God (*2 Peter 2:20-22*).
- B. All along, God has warned about the danger of returning to the filth of sin (*Ezek 18:24*).
- C. *Hebrews* clearly warns about falling away from God (*Hebrews 3:12-14; 10:26-31*).
- D. Some enter physical death having abandoned their faith (*1 Tim 5:11-12; Heb 10:35, 39*).

Conclusion:

- A. Each of us will enter physical death via one of these four exit ramps.
- B. "It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment" (*Heb 9:27-28*).