

## ONE MINUTE AFTER DEATH

### Int.

1. Aim: To discuss some things that happen just after our death.
2. Ecc. 3:1-2 "To every [thing there is] a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: 2 A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up [that which is] planted;"
  - a. Born - die
  - b. Birthday - death day
  - c. Birth Certificate - Death Certificate
  - d. Death rate 100%
3. 1 Kings 2:1-2 "Now the days of David drew nigh that he should die; and he charged Solomon his son, saying, I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man;"
4. Great interest today in the subject of death
  - a. Thanatology = study of death and dying
  - b. The study of Thanatology is on the increase in colleges and universities
  - c. There are many seminars and study groups on death
5. Many questions are asked about death:
  - a. Is there life after death? - Job. 14:14a "If a man die, shall he live [again]?..."
  - b. Will we know each other after death?
  - c. Where are the dead ?
6. We need to study about death
  - a. The Bible has a lot to say about death and dying
  - b. Many will not use the term death - say , "pass away" "I f something happens to me"

7. In this lesson we will

- a. Notice some things that will happen in the first minute after death
- b. What we can expect after our death occurs

## Discussion

### I. THERE WILL BE A SEPARATION

A. In that first minute after our death there will be a separation

1. The word death means separation
2. When man was created God made the body from the dust / then gave him a soul
  - a. Gen. 2:7 "And the LORD God formed man [of] the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."
  - b. Our life begins at conception - Body + Soul = life
3. Death was not originally intended for man
  - a. He had access to the tree of life
  - b. But because of sin he was expelled from the Garden of Eden
  - c. Gen. 2:17 " But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."
  - d. Paul explains it this way in Rom. 5:12 "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:"
4. So what is death ?

B. James 2:26 "For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also."

1. The Bible does not say that the spirit is dead without the body; it says the body is dead without the spirit. The spirit does not die!

2. The spirit will separate - leave - the physical body
3. Thayers Greek English Lexicon gives this definition of death: "1....that separation [whether natural or violent] of the soul from the body by which the life on earth is ended."

C. The spirit departs from the body at death

1. When Rachel died, her soul departed - Gen. 35:18 "And it came to pass, as her soul was in departing, (for she died) that she called his name Benoni: but his father called him Benjamin."
2. Death is described as "the giving up of the ghost" or spirit - we read that Abraham "gave up the ghost and died" [Gen. 25:8](#)
3. When Jesus was hanging upon the cross he said, "Father, into thy hands I commend my spirit," then we read "He gave up the ghost." [Lk. 23:46](#) in the NKJV it reads "He breathed his last".

D. Physical body will leave its earthly abode

1. This body will be buried - return to dust - Gen. 3:19 "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou [art], and unto dust shalt thou return."
2. Eccl. 12:7 "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it."
3. The body will wait in the grave for the resurrection and will be raised when Christ returns

E. In that first minute after death our soul and body become separated from each other!  
Then what happens to our soul/ spirit ?.....

## **II. THERE WILL BE AN ESCORT FOR THE SPIRIT**

- A. Some have the wrong concept
  - 1. Superstition that believes that the soul wanders around after death - ghosts
  - 2. The song "I'll fly away" may suggest the wrong idea
  - 3. Some religious cults teach false doctrines about the soul's travel
  
- B. The Bible teaches that angels escort souls to their abode
  - 1. Lk. 16:22 "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;"
  - 2. There is no danger of getting "Lost" on the journey
  - 3. Neither is there any chance of altering the destiny - Heb. 9:27

## **III. THERE WILL BE AN ASSIGNMENT**

- A. Your soul will be in Hades
  - 1. Jesus told the thief - "Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." Lk. 23:43
  - 2. Jesus died shortly after making this statement
    - a. He was buried and resurrected 3 days later.
    - b. Where was his soul during that time?
    - c. Acts 2:27 asv "Because thou wilt not leave my soul unto Hades, Neither wilt thou give thy Holy One to see corruption."
    - d. Acts 2:31 asv "he foreseeing [this] spake of the resurrection of the Christ, that neither was he left unto Hades, nor did his flesh see corruption."

3. Hades

- a. "The realm of the dead, the common receptacle of disembodied spirits" Thayer
- b. This is the place where our spirits go after death to await the resurrection

4. The soul will go to the Hadean world

B. Two places in hades - Luke 16

1. Paradise - the place for the righteous

- a. Jesus was in Hades - Acts 2:32
- b. Lazarus was in Hades - Lk. 16:22 - Abraham's bosom

2. Tartarus

- a. 2 Pet. 2:4 "For if God spared not the angels that sinned, but cast [them] down to hell, and delivered [them] into chains of darkness, to be reserved unto judgment;"
- b. Word translated Hell is different here - it is the word Tartarus - it is that place in Hades where the wicked are punished
- c. This is where the rich man was placed - Lk. 16:23 asv "And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom."

C. One minute after death your soul will be in hades

- 1. Either in Paradise being comforted or Tartarus being tormented.
- 2. You await the final sentencing at the judgment
- 3. The resurrected body will be needed before you go into eternity

**IV. THERE WILL BE AN AWARENESS**

- A. We will know what is happening
  - 1. There is consciousness after death - Lk. 16:19
  - 2. We will have our senses
- B. We will be able to... - Lk. 16
  - 1. Recognize people
  - 2. Remember our former life
  - 3. Regret - if we die lost
  - 4. Rejoice - if we die saved
- C. We will know that we cannot leave our abode
  - 1. There is a "great gulf" fixed between the lost and saved
  - 2. It is not possible to move from one place to the other - Lk. 16:24-26
  - 3. Our destiny is permanently fixed or sealed at death. There is no second chance after death

**Conclusion**

- 1. Death is a sobering fact.
  - a. It is an appointment we must all keep - Heb. 9:27
  - b. David said: "...there is but a step between me and death." I Sam. 20:3b
- 2. Death can be precious
  - a. Ps. 116:15 "Precious in the sight of the LORD [is] the death of his saints."
  - b. If we die in God's favor

3. Are you prepared for death
  - a. Death does not change character. We must be saints below if we are to be saints above.
  - b. The life we live on earth will determine our destiny - II Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things [done] in [his] body, according to that he hath done, whether [it be] good or bad."
  - c. If you were to die right now, where would you be in one minute?
  - d. You can be with the Lord - Rev. 2:10 - or you could be in torment in Tartarus
4. II Kings 20:1 "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet I saiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the LORD, **Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live.**"
  - a. We had no choice in coming to this earth, but we do have a choice of where we are going for eternity !
  - b. Is your life in order ?
5. Are you prepared for the resurrection? That will occur when we leave Hades
  - a. John 5:28-29 "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, 29 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."
  - b. Hell - unquenchable fire - outer darkness
  - c. Heaven - home of the saved - where God lives - mansion

6. Poem by Will Cullon Bryant - **Thanatopsis** - Closing lines read....

So live, that when thy summons comes to join  
The innumerable caravan, which moves  
To that mysterious realm, where each shall take  
His chamber in the silent halls of death,  
Thou go not, like the quarry-slave at night,  
Scourged to his dungeon, but, sustained and soothed  
By an unfaltering trust, approach thy grave  
Like one who wraps the drapery of his couch  
About him, and lies down to pleasant dreams.

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