

## Hope in Death

### Int.

1. Aim: To explain how we can have hope in death
2. Prov. 14:32 "The wicked is driven away in his wickedness: but the righteous hath hope in his death."
  - a. The wicked do not leave this life cheerfully. They have no hope for heaven and they leave life here on this earth with deep regret.
  - b. But the righteous man departs this life with joy because he will be with Christ. To him death is gain, and he is not sorry to leave this earth.
3. It is a fact that death comes to all - Ps. 89:48 NKJV "What man can live and not see death? Can he deliver his life from the power of the grave? " And Heb. 9:27
4. It is also a fact that death is not the end
  - a. Job 14:14 NKJV "If a man dies, shall he live again? All the days of my hard service I will wait, Till my change comes."
  - b. Luke 16:22-24 - the rich man and Lazarus both died - but that was not the end - they still existed after death
5. To die without hope is the greatest tragedy.
6. Prov. 11:7 NKJV "When a wicked man dies, his expectation will perish, And the hope of the unjust perishes."
  - a. The hope of the wicked man goes no farther than the grave
  - b. But the righteous man lives and dies with hope.
7. In this lesson we will emphasize what it means to have hope in death

## Discussion

### I. IT MEANS YOU CAN DIE IN PEACE -

- A. II Kings 22:20 "Behold therefore, I will gather thee unto thy fathers, and thou shalt be gathered into thy grave in peace; and thine eyes shall not see all the evil which I will bring upon this place. And they brought the king word again."
1. Josiah was the king - he obeyed God - but the people did not follow God's way
  2. In v. 19 God began to speak to him about the future
  3. He was informed that he would die in peace.
- B. We can be at Peace with God
1. Rom. 5:1 - "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:"
  2. This is an obedient faith
  3. Rom. 6:17, 18 "But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. 18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness."
  4. Rom. 6:3-7
- C. Peace with yourself - Eph. 2:14 "For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation,"
1. He keeps you in perfect peace - Isa. 26:3 "You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You."
  2. His peace passes all understanding - Phil. 4:6,7 "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

## D. Peace with your fellow man

1. 1 Pet. 2:23 "who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously;"
  - a. Jesus did not return the bad things to people who treated that way
  - b. But he left it to God
  - c. Romans 12:17-21
    - (1) Do not return evil for evil
    - (2) Live peaceably with all men - try your best to live this way
    - (3) Vengeance belongs to God and He will do it right
2. Matt. 5:44, 45 ""But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, 45 "that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust."
3. Matt. 7:12 "Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets."
  - a. The golden rule
  - b. Treat your fellow man the way you want him to treat you

E. When we are at peace with God, our self, and our fellow man then we can die in peace.

## II. IT MEANS YOU CAN DIE KNOWING THAT YOU HAVE LEFT THE RIGHT EXAMPLE FOR YOUR FAMILY AND OTHERS -

- A. Rev. 14:13 "Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.""
1. Happy are those who die in the Lord - you must live for the Lord to die in the Lord
  2. Their works follow them all the way to judgment
  3. Their family and friends will remember their example.
  4. Illustration. An artist puts his work on canvas, dies and leaves it behind so others will see the works he accomplished.
  5. When we die in the Lord we will die in hope and leave a good example for others
- B. Example: After your death the life you lived will continue to speak - Heb. 11:4 "By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks."
1. Abel was killed by his brother Cain because of envy or jealousy
  2. But because he was a righteous man his example lives on today.
  3. If you die as a righteous person then your good example will live beyond the grave

- C. Each generation must lead the other to heaven
1. Deut. 6:2 ""that you may fear the LORD your God, to keep all His statutes and His commandments which I command you, you and your son and your grandson, all the days of your life, and that your days may be prolonged."
  2. 1 Cor. 11:1 "Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ."
    - a. He was following Christ
    - b. He said that you can follow him as he is following Christ
- D. It brings great satisfaction to know that you have left a legacy for others to follow to heaven - Gen. 18:19 ""For I have known him, in order that he may command his children and his household after him, that they keep the way of the LORD, to do righteousness and justice, that the LORD may bring to Abraham what He has spoken to him."" You left a good example.

### III. IT MEANS YOU CAN DIE WITH CONFIDENCE -

- A. II Cor. 5:1 "For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens."
- B. You are going to a far better place - Heaven
1. Phil. 1:21,23 "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. 23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better."

2. Rev. 21:4 ""And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.""

- a. God will wipe away the tears of those who are his children.
- b. He will do this by eliminating the things which cause tears.
- c. Then you will die with confidence that you are going to a better place

C. You are going to receive a crown of righteousness

1. II Tim. 4:6-8 "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."
2. At the end of my race, as there was a crown in reserve for those who had successfully striven in the Grecian games.
3. This is a crown won the cause of righteousness

D. Jesus has prepared a place for you and you have reservations in heaven

1. John 14:1-3 "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2 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. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

2. 1 Pet. 1:4 "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,"

E. You will be able to stand before Christ at the judgment in confidence - I John 2:28  
 "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."

F. Death will be swallowed up in victory - 1 Cor. 15:54-57 "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? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."

## **CONCLUSION**

1. When we die the only thing that will matter is whether or not we have hope in death
2. Remember that your life is "a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away" - James 4:14
3. If you died today would you have hope in death