

Facing Death

April 12, 2020

2 Corinthians 5:1-11

Grace Bible Church

Every religion, philosophy, ideology or world view must answer this question: what happens when we \_\_\_\_\_? There are three answers put forth.

- \_\_\_\_\_ - We will get what we deserve from this life in our next existence.
- \_\_\_\_\_ - the answer of naturalism or materialism. William Provine, one of the honest atheists, pulls no punches when he says:
- \_\_\_\_\_ - life after death. Bodily life after death.

Death is an unpleasant \_\_\_\_\_: On average, across any 48hrs, we also lose...

500 to Medical errors

300 to the Flu

250 to Suicide

200 to Car Accidents

40 to Homicide via Handgun

20,577 total deaths due to corona virus.

Death is \_\_\_\_\_. It is a part of the \_\_\_\_\_, not creation.

Tim Keller describes it:

- Death is the Great \_\_\_\_\_, tearing tearing loved ones away from us, or us from them.
- Death is the Great \_\_\_\_\_, ripping apart the material and immaterial parts of our being and sundering a whole person, who was never meant to be disembodied, even for a moment.
- Death is the Great \_\_\_\_\_, because it reminds us, as Shakespeare said, that we are food for worms. . . .
- Death is our Great \_\_\_\_\_ more than anything. It makes a claim on each and every one of us, pursuing us relentlessly through all our days.
- Death is the Great \_\_\_\_\_ When Thomas Jefferson wrote that all men are created equal death is one of the few areas in which this is true.

Key thought: Only in Christ is death \_\_\_\_\_. Only in Christ is their hope of life after death. How does the resurrection of Christ give us hope in this life?

- The resurrection reminds us that this life is \_\_\_\_\_. A tent is temporary housing This life is preparation for eternity. Most of us have been taught to plan for retirement. How many of us are prepared to die?
  - Are you living as though this life is temporary?
- The resurrection reminds us that most of life is lived on the \_\_\_\_\_ of death. We have an eternal dwelling not made by human hands.
  - Death does not mean homelessness? Death is a change of address, not the end of existence.
  - Are you laying up treasure in heaven (Matthew 6:19)? Because where your treasure is there will your heart be also. How: "As for the rich in this present age, charge them not to be haughty, nor to set their hopes on the uncertainty of riches, but on God, who richly provides us with everything to enjoy. They are to do good, to be rich in good works, to be generous and ready to share, thus storing up treasure for themselves as a good foundation for the future, so that they may take hold of that which is truly life." (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
  - How you see the future influences how you respond in the present. "For you had compassion on those in prison, and you joyfully accepted the plundering of your property, since you knew that you yourselves had a better possession and an abiding one." (Hebrews 10:34)
- The resurrection enables us to face this life \_\_\_\_\_. Living realistically means
  - We groan because this world is a painful place to live.

1. Our greatest pleasures are mixed with sorrow. Marriage, children, work and play. No unmixed joys.
  2. When we gain wisdom, we are old. "Remember your creator in the days of your youth."
  3. We have to deal with unspeakable evil. Individuals are shot to death our side a Paris Cafe. Syrian refugees are forced from their home and face sickness and death as countries close their borders. Two pressure cooker bomb explode as people watched the Boston Marathon. An unstable Uber driver in MI indiscriminately shoots strangers in between giving rides to customers. Men have entered churches to shoot worshippers.
  4. We have to deal with the pain of death. When C.S. Lewis' wife, Joy Gresham, died of cancer, he was devastated. In a Grief Observed Lewis let us in on the the anger and confusion he experienced after his loss: "Where is God?... Go to Him the your need is desperate, when all other help is in vain, and what do you find? A door slammed in your face, and a sound of bolting and double bolting on the inside. Afte that silence. You may as well turn away." "Time after time when He seemed most grace. He was preparing the next torture,, I wrote that last night. It was a yell rather than a thought.
- B. We long for a better world. It is the goal of our politics, it drives our ambition- to make this world a better place. We know one day it will be. "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.'" (Revelation 21:4) 'If I find in myself desires which nothing in this world can satisfy, the only logical explanation is that I was **made for another world.**' C. S. Lewis
- C. We have a taste of the world to come with the presence of the Holy Spirit.
- D. Are you trying to dull the ache of this present world or are you longing for the world to come?
- IV. The resurrection gives us a \_\_\_\_\_ for our faith. "because, if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved." (Romans 10:9–10) The question should never be "how is your faith?" The question is "How is your God" Small faith in a big God.
- A. Where is your faith? What are you really believing in? What is the one thing you cannot live without?
- V. The resurrection motivate us to live \_\_\_\_\_
- "Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight, and sin which clings so closely, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus, the founder and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy that was set before him endured the cross, despising the shame, and is seated at the right hand of the throne of God." (Hebrews 12:1–2) If Jesus lived for the joy of pleasing his father, so should we.
- A. Who or what are you living for?

Conclusion: the resurrection reminds us that all will stand before God in judgment. Some will answer to how they lived as steward of the grace of God. Others will answer for their rejection of God at the White Throne.

- Are you living as though this life is temporary?  
 Are you laying up treasure in heaven-for eternity?  
 Are you trying to dull the ache of this present world or are you longing for the world to come?  
 What is the one thing you cannot live without?  
 Who are you living for?  
 Are you prepared to die?