

FACING DEATH: I DIED LAST NIGHT

Intro. Most responsible people at one time or another to to a professional accountant or banker for help and information concerning their finances. I once read a story of a man, who once a year, went to his accountant and said, “I died last night. Tell me what is going to happen to my business, my family, and my estate.” This is probably a wise thing to do. Often little is done about having plans for the proper use of what wealth one may have when death does come. Certainly the Bible is clear that none should ignore this event. Heb 9:27—“And as it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the judgment.” Consider the case of Stephen. He knew that in a few moments he would leave this world. As he looked backward he prayed for his enemies who were stoning him to death. He looked forward to the world he was entering and said, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.”

Now, just suppose that we were facing death. What would our concern be? I don’t believe it would be about business, money or many things that seem so important here. If we were standing between two worlds like Stephen, I believe most of us would be concerned with the following questions:

I. “HAVE I OBEYED THE GOSPEL?” (See Romans 1:16)

1. I have heard preachers who had the experience of standing by the bedside of men with only a few minutes left who begged for the opportunity to obey the gospel by being baptized.
2. Yes, there are commands to be obeyed. Mark 16:16; Acts 17:30; Acts 22:16; Romans 10:10; Acts 2:38, etc.
3. I know of one case where a 19 year old boy had refused to be baptized and a short time later was injured in a car wreck. The local preacher was called to the hospital and the boy now wanted to be baptized, but since he was a minor and could not sign a release for himself, the hospital authorities forbade it. The preacher stood helplessly by as they carried him away begging for someone to assist him to be baptized.
4. One preacher who held a gospel meeting where I had been preaching for sometime told of a man who had attended church in Tennessee for years and was accidentally shot by a drunk. The preacher rushed to the scene and at the man’s pleading for baptism they rushed to the river bank and barely baptized him in time.
5. What about you? Have you obeyed the gospel? Many would say, “Oh Preacher, I am to.” But remember our supposition—**You died last night.** Where do you stand?

in eternity? You may reply, “But I don’t think baptism is important>” What about Mark 16:16; Acts 22:16; 1st Peter 3:21?

II. Was I Faithful To My Lord?

1. If you ever thought you were close to dying, you know that this question is of great concern.
2. Faithful in What?
 - a. Studying the Bible. 2 Tim. 2:15
 - b. Prayer. 1 Thess. 5:17=Pray without ceasing.
 - c. Giving. 1 Cor. 16:2-Have you sacrifice?
 - d. Love-God & neighbor, not world (1 Cor. 13:3).
 - e. Assemble with saints (Heb. 10:25).
3. A good beginning is not enough.
 - a. We can fall away. 1 Cor. 10:12.
4. When death comes it isn’t enough to say, “If I had lived a little longer, I would have done all these things.” No, what is important is---“What I have done.”

III. Did I Try To Help Others Go To Heaven?

1. Prov. 11:30-He that winneth souls is wise. “Take someone with you is a must as you face eternity.”
2. Mark 16:16-“Go ye into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature.”
3. 2 Cor. 5:11- “Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men...”

4. “When we are facing a losing battle with death what a comfort to look back on efforts made to win souls for Christ.” – Jimmy Lovell

IV. Did I Try To Smooth The Road of Life For Others?

1. Judgment Scene. Matt. 25:35-46.
2. Our outcome is decided by our kindness to others.
3. Abraham Lincoln sat beside a dying lonely soldier all night long. He went to the White House to conduct matters of state during the Civil War. We can do , if we want to.

V. Was I A Good Influence On My Family?

1. Commanded to take care of their physical needs.”
1 Tim. 5:8- “But if any provide not for his own, and especially for those of his own house, he hath denied the faith, and is worse than an infidel.”
2. How much greater ought to be our concern for the spiritual influence.
3. Wild boy obeyed the gospel to surprise preacher. Elder said, “I wasn’t surprised. His father was one of the finest Christian men who ever lived in this country.” Influence of the Father reached back from the grave to his son, to snatch him from torment.
4. Some In the family will say, “Oh I am to obey the Gospel some day.” Say it to appease mom and dad?
 - a. Luke 16:19-31. Very likely that the Rich man died

before he aimed to. Then he wanted to go back and warn his brothers. Then it was too late.

b. Song- "Almost but Lost"

Consider: 1. Have I obeyed the Gospel?

2. Have I lived faithfully?

3. Have I tried to help others go to Heaven?

4. Have I tried to smooth the Road of life for others?

5. Have I been a Good Influence on my Family?

Conclusion: Are you ready to meet God? If not, come and make your life right with Him NOW!

This Sermon Preached for the Van Buren Church of Christ in Mount Eden in 07/1984 and also in 09/1987. I heard him preached this sermon in other congregations and he didn't waver from the truth of God's Word!

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