

THE BELLEVILLE MESSENGER

July 16

2017

The Death of Saints Is Precious

In Psalm 116:15, the inspired Psalmist penned, *“Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.”* My friends, although it is hard for us to comprehend the death of a loved one as being something that is precious, the truth is, if our loved one is a child of God who dies in the Lord their death certainly is precious. So, with that thought in mind let’s examine a few reasons for why the death of saints is precious. Beginning with, the death of saints is precious because...

1) They may rest from their labors.

In Revelation 14:13, we read, *“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.”* You see, a place of rest does exist, and in (Hebrews 4:9) the Hebrew writer reminds us of the fact that there remains a rest for God’s people. Folks, we all long for the day when we shall receive rest from our labors and when a child of God departs from this life they get to enter into that rest. Therefore, the death of saints is precious because they enter into rest from their labors.

2) To them death is gain.

Also, the death of saints is precious because of the fact that for them death is gain. The apostle Paul said, *“For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I can not tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and to be*

with Christ, which is far better” (Philippians 1:21-23). Folks, all children of God should earnestly desire for the day when they get to be with Christ, which by the way will be far better than any day spent on this earth in the flesh. Therefore, as Paul expressed, to die is gain. So once again, the death of saints is precious because for them death is gain.

3) They will be comforted.

The death of saints is also precious because of the fact that they will be comforted. In Luke 16 we read about a certain beggar named Lazarus who died and was carried to Abraham’s bosom (v. 22), were then he was comforted (v. 25). You see, when a child of God departs from this life they will be comforted, and they will never again experience death, sorrow, crying, or pain (Revelation 21:4). Therefore, the death of saints is precious because they will never again experience discomfort, but rather they will be forever comforted.

4) They have finished the race.

The Hebrew writer encouraged God’s children to run with endurance the race which is set before them (Hebrews 12:1). However, when a child of God dies in the Lord they have endured and completed the race which was set before them. Shortly before his death, the apostle Paul wrote these words, *“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing”* (2 Timothy 4:7-8). Friends, the death of saints is precious because they have run and finished the race which was set before them and for by doing so they will be rewarded (Revelation 2:10).

5) A mansion in heaven awaits them.

Last, but certainly not least, the death of saints is precious because they will have a mansion in heaven awaiting them. Jesus informed, *“In My Father’s house are many mansions...”* (John 14:2). Ladies and gentleman heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people (Matthew 25:34). Therefore, the death of saints is precious because they are prepared to inherit an incorruptible and undefiled inheritance that does not fade away reserved in heaven (1 Peter 1:4). Folks, God

who can not lie has promised eternal life (Titus 1:2), and when one of His faithful children pass from this life they will inherit eternal life and spend eternity where the soul of man never dies!

My friends, when a faithful child of God departs from this life, let us not sorrow as others who have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13), but rather let us rejoice in their hope (Proverbs 14:32). For as we have learned, the death of saints is precious!

✍️ Brad Phillips



Shifting Responsibility

When God questioned Adam as to whether he had eaten of the forbidden fruit his first response was to blame Eve (and even God) for his disobedience. His reply was, *"The woman whom thou gavest to be with me, she gave me of the tree, and I did eat"* (Genesis 3:12). Eve does the same thing when she is questioned. She said, *"The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat"* (Genesis 3:13). Even though both of their statements were true it did not change the fact that they had disobeyed God and were responsible for their actions.

One of the greatest needs in our society today is getting men and women to accept responsibility for their actions. Someone commits a horrible crime and the explanation is that he was influenced by some movie or TV show he had seen. While that may be true it does not justify his action.

The person who truly repents is one who recognizes that he is responsible for his action and, being moved by godly sorrow, repents of that sin (2 Corinthians 7:10). He will not try to justify himself by blaming others.

Another way that some refuse to accept responsibility is to reject the one who exposes their sin. When John condemned Herod and Herodias for their sinful relationship Herodias had John beheaded (Matthew 14:3-10). However, John's death did not change the fact that they were still guilty.

When Paul wrote to the Corinthians he said, *"For it hath been declared unto me of you, my brethren, by them which are of the house of Chloe, that there are contentions among you"* (1 Corinthians 1:11). Note, Paul does not condemn those of the house of Chloe for telling him of the problems at

Corinth. Had there been no contentions then there would have been no contentions to report to Paul. Paul deals with the real problem, i.e., the contentions among them. Can you imagine the Corinthians defending themselves by saying that Chloe and those in her house had no business saying anything to Paul about what they were doing? The wrong involved was not Chloe's reporting of the contentions. The wrong was the contentions among them.

I knew of an incident where it was necessary for brethren to withdraw from a member because they were walking disorderly. This is exactly what the Bible teaches should be done (2 Thessalonians 3:6). When the action was taken the guilty individual condemned the brethren for "the way they handled the situation" instead of dealing with the thing that brought about the "situation," i.e. their unfaithfulness.

We need to learn that our obedience to God is not dependent upon what someone else does or does not do. I have heard people who were involved in some dispute with another person make the statement, "I'll repent if he will." If the person is truly penitent he will repent and do what is right regardless of what someone else may do or not do. He can repent of his sin and be right with God whether the other person does or not.

All of these situations demonstrate what pride does to an individual. It demands humility for one to say, "I have sinned" and accept responsibility for that sin (See Luke 15:18-21), however, if we desire to please God and gain that wonderful home in heaven this is exactly what we will do. We will not try to justify ourselves by blaming someone else.

✍️ James Hahn

Belleville church of Christ

5635 S County Rd 200E - Belleville, IN - (317) 539-5258

www.bellevillechurch.net

Schedule of Services

Sunday Bible Study	9:30 a.m.
Sunday Morning Worship	10:30 a.m.
Sunday Evening Worship	5:00 p.m.
Wednesday Bible Study	7:00 p.m.

Evangelist

James Hahn (317) 745-1507