

Scripture Lesson:-

Text:-

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at Bailey

Introduction:- Death stands in the pathway of every human being. The rich and the poor, the small and the great, the saint and the sinner, must all encounter the experience of death. The inevitable fact of death is recognized in the whole course of the scriptures, in the laws of the land, in the whole of the human economy. The actuaries of the life insurance companies have estimated the normal expectancy of life for every year, from infancy to old age. All the figures which the actuaries have compiled proclaim with positive certainty that it is appointed unto men to die.

I.

The recent volume, "Immortality", gives the following statistics on death. "Vital statistics inform us that the world's population is about two and one half billion, and that of this number approximately thirty million die every every year. That means that on an average one person somewhere in the world dies every second. Think of it! Every time the clock ticks some one dies! Sixty die every minute, 3600 every hour, and 86,400 every day. And, except for a very few, each of those leaves some heart torn and bleeding and mourning. Your appointed time, and mine, has not yet come. But it will be somewhere on that time table.

II.

Death is an intruder in the world, coming as a result of man's sin. It was God's original plan and purpose that man should walk with him in unbroken fellowship, never tasting death. Death was announced by God, as the penalty for sin, to Adam in these words: "In the day that thou eatest thereof, thou shalt surely die". (Genesis 2: 17). Adam deliberately violated God's law, and the impending penalty of death came as the inevitable consequence. The primary penalty for the sin of Adam was spiritual death, in which was also involved physical death.

Adam's sin severed him from the protection of the tree of life, with the result that both spiritual death and physical death ensued. A well known theologian says, "Bodily death is the consummate expression of God's hatred of sin; it is indeed the penal mark against sin." "Sin, I believe, has spoiled the whole universe. Everything from the flowers to the planets is a failure, does not work out the full ideal. Nature is a limping king. It gets along, but his movement is out of keeping with his majesty. Let the scientist investigate and induce his conclusion; I in my thinking and feeling make no terms with death. I hate death; I hate it everywhere, in the garden, and meadow, and swamp, and forest, everywhere; it violates every noble thing in me; I long for a world where there will be no dead thing, where every created thing will just live, live, live forever."

III.

Victory over death. Jesus conquered death. He left behind an empty tomb. He arose in glorious triumph from the grave, proclaiming: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory." (I Cor. 15:54,55.) Jesus makes available to his disciples his victory over death. Jesus said: "I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die." (John 11: 25,26). The victory over death which is available for the Christian, was manifested in the departure of Stephen, the first Christian martyr. We have a remarkable description of the triumph of Stephen, as he stood in the presence of those who stoned him to death: "But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, looked up steadfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. And they stoned Stephen, calling on God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit. And he kneeled down, and cried with a loud voice, Lord, lay not this sin to their charge. And when he had said this, he fell asleep. (Acts 7:55,56,59,60).

Conclusion: - Death for the sinner is the tragic entry into eternal separation from God, which is spoken of in the scriptures as "the second death."

Death for the Christian is the doorway into the presence of Christ to live in eternal unbroken fellowship with him. Jesus is preparing a place for his people in the city of God, and it is his desire that they shall dwell with him forever as expressed in his great prayer on the eve of his crucifixion: "Father, I will that they also, whom thou hast given me, be with me where I am; that they may behold my glory, which thou hast given me: for thou lovedst me before the foundation of the world."

~~Think of getting on shore & finding
it heaven
of taking hold of a hand & finding it to
be the Saviour.
of me~~

I cannot say & I will not say
That she is dead, she is just away
with a cheery smile & a wave of the hand
she has wandered into the heavenly land
and left us dreaming how very fair
It must be since she looks there
mild & gentle as she was here
when she sweetest love of life she gave
Think of her still as she came, I say
She is not dead, she is just away -

I was glad Mrs Jackson was
ready to go to her long home. She
left the testimony that all was well &
fell asleep with the praise of God on
her lips for His goodness to her. Are you

who are left ready for the
- summons when it comes for
come it will & maybe sooner than
you expect. You aren't promised
tomorrow. We must get ready
today. -