

Pastor Ron Case
10/30/16

“Death”

Abraham (Part 20)

“Better is the end of a thing than its beginning...” (Ecclesiastes 7:8)

Death of the Patriarch

Genesis 25:7-10 – (7) “These are the days of the years of Abraham’s life, 175 years. (8) Abraham breathed his last and died in a good old age, an old man and full of years, and was gathered to his people. (9) Isaac and Ishmael his sons buried him in the cave of Machpelah, in the field of Ephron the son of Zohar the Hittite, east of Mamre, (10) the field that Abraham purchased from the Hittites. There Abraham was buried, with Sarah his wife.”

Freedom from the Fear of Death

Hebrews 2:14-15 – (14) “Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, (15) and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.”

Revelation 1:17-18 – (17) “When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, ‘Fear not, I am the first and the last, (18) and the living one. I died, and behold I am alive forevermore, and I have the keys of Death and Hades.’”

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 – (54) “So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has 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 your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?*’” (NKJV)

Christians need not Fear Death

From Worst Case to Preferred State

John 17:5 – “And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.” (NKJV)

Philippians 1:21-24 – (21) “For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. (22) If I am to live in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. (23) I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (24) But to remain in the flesh is more necessary on your account.”

Revelation 14:13 – “And I heard a voice from heaven saying, ‘Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!’”

Hopeful Grief

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 – (13) “But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. (14) For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.”

Questions to Ponder:

- (1) What impacted me most from this message?
- (2) Do I have an unspiritual view of death?
- (3) What is the best metaphor for death for a Christian? (1 Thes. 4:13; Acts 7:60; 1 Cor. 15:6)