

Never See Death

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John 8:51 Verily, verily, I say unto you, If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death.

- I. What a promise! Jesus made it in the middle of a conversation where He was being attacked personally.
 - A. These Jews kept laying things to his charge as they tried to discredit Him.
 - B. They said He had a devil, that He was a Samaritan, and insinuated that He was born of fornication.
 - C. But Jesus repeatedly turned the conversation back to the basic reason of his coming to this earth – salvation and eternal life.
 - D. There is our example, and we should go and do likewise.
 - E. Our time, energy, and life should not be spent in defending ourselves, or in debating with religious reprobates, but it focusing on the fact that people are lost and undone without God and his Son, and Jesus is the way, the truth, and the life.

- II. Jesus spoke of his words; “...if a man keep my saying...”
 - A. Jesus did not command that they fall down and worship Him, as the devil did, but He directed their attention to the Word of God.
 - B. His desire and goal was that they would know the Truth and be made free from their sin, its power, and its penalty.
 - C. The words of Jesus continually made the connection between sin and death, and men do not like that connection.
 - D. They want to ignore that fact, dispute that fact, and pretend that sin has nothing to do with death.
 - E. They do not want to talk about their sin, and neither do they want to talk about death.
 - F. So it is no wonder that they kept trying to change the subject.

- III. Men do not want to talk about their sin because they spend a large part of their thoughts trying to justify themselves about it.
 - A. Talking about it and being challenged and questioned about it upsets the comfortable safe place they have constructed for themselves in their imagination.
 - B. A sinner reacts to the subject of his sin by casting blame on others when he feels cornered, or feels that he is about to be uncovered; he must try his best to keep the condemnation on someone besides himself.
 - C. So he will insult, slander, and accuse anyone who even appears to touch his sin.

- IV. Men do not want to talk about death.
 - A. Death is a constant memorial of sin.
 - B. Death is unexplainable except as one of the effects of sin and evil.
 - C. It seems to be such a wrong and injustice to the soul.
 - D. And it is absolutely unavoidable to all living creatures.
 - E. Without Jesus death seems to men to be the violent removal from all their carefully accumulated treasures, all their most highly-prized possessions.
 - F. To the unbeliever death is the loss of all these things and also the loss of all possibility of ever enjoying them again.

- G. To the unbeliever death is also the separation from all the people they care about.
- H. Except to the bitter and lonely miser, this is the most dreaded aspect of death.
- I. But if all this be death, then the believer in Jesus will never see it; for that which men call death, only translates the believer into the fullness of life and joy.
- J. Neither things present, nor things to come, neither things below, nor things above, no depth, no height, no length, no breadth, will be able to separate the believer from that love of God and of Jesus which is the never-failing source and fountain of inextinguishable bliss
- K. To those who “keep his saying” death becomes only temporary instead of permanent.
- L. It is a temporary separation in bodily presence only.
- M. The saints of God, being dead, yet speak, and their memory is blessed.
 1. They still speak to us in our memory through the life they lived while on this earth.
 2. Every Christian should consider the importance of this fact while they are living.
- N. The wicked are silenced, and what they said and did while they lived on this earth looks like foolishness and vanity after they are gone.
- O. Christ has abolished death, so the question is not about continued existence, all will be resurrected and all will exist forever.
- P. But continued existence (eternity) will be a curse for those without Christ; it will be eternal death, in the very way that lost men view it now.
 1. It will be eternal separation from everything and everyone they cared about in this life.
 2. There will be no reunions and no fellowship in hell; it will be like solitary confinement forever and ever.
- Q. If a man keeps Jesus saying, he will never see such an end, but will be united with the righteous and the angels and the Lord himself forever and ever.
 1. There will be life there – not death.
 2. There will be fellowship of the saints and fellowship with the Lord himself – forever.
 3. Physical death is only the promotion of the child of God into his eternal reward, which will be joy and bliss beyond what has ever entered into the heart of any man while on earth.
- V. All this is hinged upon whether we “keep his saying” or not.
 - A. Jesus said a lot “sayings” while He was on this earth, so He was not referring to one in particular.
 - B. The life of Jesus Christ can be summed up in this, He was the “Word.”
 - C. He was what God had to say to man, and his life was focused on man’s sin, and Christ’s death and resurrection.
 - D. Summed up in one saying the message from God in the life of Jesus Christ could be said like this:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

John 10:27-28 My sheep hear my voice, and I know them, and they follow me: And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand.

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Mark 8:29 And he saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Peter answereth and saith unto him, Thou art the Christ.