

AN APPOINTMENT WITH DEATH

TEXT: Hebrews 9:27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the Judgment:

Death is a reminder that sin entered the world. Death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Sin is universal. Death proves it. It proves we need a Saviour. Only Jesus conquered sin and death.

Man, in every science, in every phase of life, fights death — sometimes courageously, sometimes relentlessly, but always unsuccessfully. For 6,000 years now, this enemy, thru satan who has power of death, has broken more hearts, destroyed more souls, and torn up more homes than any other thing.



Jesus conquered death; therefore He can conquer sin. We are not our own Saviour, and we can't deliver ourselves from death. Death is a summons. Birth called us out of another world, death calls us out of this one. After death, what then? Every one of us shall give an account of himself to God.

Romans 14:12: So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.

Matthew 12:36: But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the Day of Judgment.

After death comes the judgment. What we do with this life is a sacred trust. If we abuse it, we lose heavily. If we are faithful to God, we enter into the joys of the Lord!

The Bible makes it plain that death doesn't end all.

The Bible makes it plain that death doesn't end all. We need not shrink with craven fear when we face it. It can be our release from this captive body of flesh. Cowards and the wicked do injustice to death. They dishonor death as they dishonor life. When a soul steps out of this body into that new home not made with hands, why should we shrink from Coronation Day? But death has a terrifying stinger in it.

1 Corinthians 15:55-56:

55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the Law.

Our sins and wrongs cannot be erased. There is no second chance. Mr. Grave – death – is a terror! Sin may be fun now, and fools may mock at sin – but at death there is misery.

How will you act when the summons reaches you? Your time to get ready may be brief, or not at all. God makes no guarantee. Death need not be a lonely road, full of frightening shadows. You need not be tormented by demons or regrets.

God suspends judgment until the story of your life has been written. He gave you this life to prepare for eternity. Life's mistakes and sins can only be rectified on this side of the grave, never on the other side. Many in Hell would like to come back, pay that debt, correct that injustice, kiss away some sorrow, clear up a misunderstanding, be reconciled to some soul, perform neglected duties, or kneel at God's altar for pardon. But second and third and fourth choruses are all on this side of the grave.



You are writing your final story — your final record. Any corrections or revisions you wish to make can only be made here, now. When death whispers, “*Time is up*” —whether you finish life as you planned or not — the chapter is over, and after that, the Judgment.

Let your exit be with honor. We didn't – and couldn't – choose the circumstances of our birth, but we can choose where we will spend eternity. Heaven or Hell. To lose Heaven by default is the sorrow unmatched by any grief on earth! To ignore Christ's provision for your salvation here will mock you there.

Revelation 20:15: And whosoever was not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the Lake of Fire.

The big fact is that we are all appointed to die.

Hebrews 9:27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the Judgment:

The bigger fact is that we must all give an account.



Revelation 20:12-13:

12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the Books were opened: and another Book was opened, which is the Book of Life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the Books, according to their works.

13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and Hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.

The biggest fact is that there is a JUDGMENT.

Hebrews 9:27: And as it is appointed unto men once to die but after this the Judgment:



We need JESUS!

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