

DEATH & JUDGEMENT

(Sermon Summary)

Preacher: Nick Davis (Jacksdale & Selston Community Church)

Reading: Hebrews 9:23-28.

The verse that we are particularly looking at is Hebrews 9:27. This is often used in Open Air preaching. It is a very direct statement. Unfortunately, the church can be guilty of brushing it to one side. The pandemic showed that many were terrified at this appointment with death. Death was the subject people wanted to avoid and hoped it would all go away. Death is a reality for Christians too. We are told to prepare for retirement, but people are not so well prepared for death. It is like the elephant in the room that people do not want to talk about.

In the world 163,000 people die each day, 6829 die each hour and 144 die each minute. These people either go forward into eternal life or eternal punishment. The Lord taught that it is a broad way that leads to death and that only a few find the way that leads to eternal life. Most of those 163,000 who die each day are on the broad road leading to eternal death. As Christians, we alone have the truth this dying world needs to hear.

1. What is death?

Death is unnatural. It is an enemy. We learn in 1 Corinthians 15: 25-26 that death is the last foe to be subdued under Christ's feet. There was no death in the beginning. In the Garden of Eden there was no pain and no sorrow. But the Lord had told Adam and Eve that if they disobeyed Him by eating of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil they would die. The fruit itself did not contain something bad. It caused death because God had commanded Adam and Eve not to eat it. The fruit was different because of the command of God.

When Adam fell, we all fell. This is called federal headship. We were joined to Adam and so when he fell, we all fell with him. Death then came into the world when sin came into the world (Romans 5:12ff). Would we have done better than Adam? The answer is 'No' because we all show by the choices we make that we follow sin.

People complain that God is unjust and over-reacting. Here, however, man is being arrogant and saying that he has the right to obey or disobey, in effect saying, 'My way or the highway.' Sin is an act of cosmic treason against the King of Kings. The natural man hates this and thinks that he is relatively good. But God is the one who is just and we

simply get what we deserve. The world often reacts to this by saying, 'Let us eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die.' They try to forget death for a time but then it is too late. Death is certain – and so is judgment.

2. A certain judgment.

Christians can get very slack on the matter of judgment. But Christians will be judged too. We will have to give an account.

Hebrews 10:31 tells us it is a fearful thing to fall into the hands of the living God. We should be concerned about unconverted family and friends. We see how serious judgment is when we see that our sin required the crushing of the Son of God at the cross. We must take the gospel seriously. We cannot watch a dying world go to hell. We have to wonder at ourselves that we are not more broken about the fact of people going to perish in hell. Certainly, we cannot use the sovereignty of God to hide away from the truth. We have to ask ourselves if God punishes disobedience, then what will He make of our lies, our blasphemies, our fornications? We need to hear the diagnosis of our problem before we can receive the treatment.

3. The Christ who was offered.

God is rich in mercy. He offers an escape for us. We see this in Hebrews 9:28. This is the gospel of Christ. We are not left without hope. He has dealt with the guilt of our iniquity. He has tasted death for His people. 'But God' is an important statement in the Bible. He treated His own Son as though He had committed all our sin. It is finished at the cross. The price is paid. Christ's resurrection shows that the sacrifice is accepted, the debt has been paid and that the Lord is the conquering King.

Are we downcast? Do we wonder if there is enough grace to save us? We should stop listening to the lies of the devil. The word tells us that the Lord has totally removed our sin (See Psalm 103: 1-12). Our sin is forgiven. We have an Advocate in heaven interceding for us. He will not let your life end in failure and judgment. He will finish the work (see Romans 8:33-34). It is very personal. He takes us into His chambers. Death has no hold, no sting. Christ has taken the sting of death away. God is satisfied to look upon His Son. We are accounted free. So if God is satisfied, why aren't we? We should then be bold for our King.