

Death of God's Saints is Precious

Ps 116:12-15

Introduction:

1. This seems like an odd verse.
 - a. Why would death be precious to God?
 - b. Wasn't it sin in the world that brought forth the curse of death?
 - c. Certainly God abhors sin, and I would be willing to say that individuals in their right minds abhor the thought of dying.
 - d. To us death never seems under any circumstances, a precious thing.
 - e. We think of death as an enemy. We think of death as a loss.
2. Here is the sequence in which today's verse occurs. ←
 - a. Vs 12 - in essence says, "The Lord has been good to me!"
 - b. Vs 13 refers to the OT "Thank Offering" says, "I must express my appreciation to the Lord for such goodness!"
 - c. Vs 14 - "I shall voluntarily 'promise' God something, not out of duty but out of love! That's how I will thank Him!"
 - d. Then, surprisingly, verse 15 is seen
3. Here's what I believe is being said.
 - a. If I am a Christian and acknowledge God's goodness and truly desire to thank Him, then I will joyfully serve Him with all my heart.
 - b. I will keep those vows that I have made to the Lord and at the day of my death I will have served God faithfully
 - c. Such a death, in God's eyes, will be precious
4. Paul said something like this in Acts 20:24 ←
 - a. Paul wanted to die having been faithful, pleasing to his Lord
 - b. He wanted to die looking forward to his reward from the Lord
5. At the end of his life, Paul said it again in 2Tim 4 ←
 - a. Surely the death of the apostle Paul was precious to God
6. "precious" = "yaqar," means "valuable, prized, splendid, weighty or important, honorable" and even "costly!"
7. The death of a faithful saint, a grateful and dedicated and generous child of God, is absolutely precious in the eyes of the Lord!
 - a. It's "valuable!"
 - b. "Prized!"
 - c. "Highly esteemed!"
 - d. "More costly than diamonds or rubies!"
8. Oh, to die faithfully serving God, not having "sold out" or "quit" or "compromised" in the battle!
9. This Verse Is Not Universal
 - a. Not every death is precious in the sight of God
 - b. Only the deaths of the saints are precious

I. The Death of a Christian is Precious in the Sight of God Because There Will Be No More Suffering

A. Suffering is a Fact of Life – Jn 16:33

Joh 16:33 These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.

1. There is plenty of physical suffering
2. There are mental and emotional sufferings
3. Because of sin we experience spiritual suffering
4. John Quincy Adams, our second president, lay dying at the age of 80. A friend visited him and shook the trembling hand of the old president. The visitor asked the common question, "How are you doing?" The retired chief executive looked at his friend and answered. "I am doing quite well, but the house in which I live at present is becoming dilapidated. It is tottering on its foundations. Time and seasons have almost destroyed it. Its roof is worn out. Its walls are shattered and it crumbles with every wind. The old tenement is becoming uninhabitable and I fear that I will have to move out soon. Soon after that Adams moved from his shaky home on earth to a home not made with hands.

B. In Heaven There Will Be No More Suffering

Re 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

1. Example of the rich man and Lazarus in Lu 16:25
2. Lazarus was a beggar at the gate of the rich man
 - a) *Begging for scraps of food*
 - b) *The dogs licked his sores*
3. After death, he was in Abraham's bosom and the rich man became the beggar

II. The Death of a Christian is Precious in the Sight of God Because There Will Be No More Sorrow

A. Life Offers Us Many Sorrows

1. We cannot escape sorrow here
 - a) *Marriage problems*
 - b) *Job problems*
 - c) *Natural disasters*
 - d) *Health problems*
 - e) *Problems with children*
2. No more broken hearts
3. Thank God there is a boundary where sorrow cannot reach

B. In Heaven There Will be Nor More Sorrow

Re 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

1. No police stations in heaven
2. No unemployment office in heaven
3. No hurricanes, earthquakes or tornadoes in heaven
4. No hospitals
 - a) *No cancer*
 - b) *No blindness*
 - c) *No sickness*
 - d) *No wheelchairs*
 - e) *No crutches*
 - f) *No pharmacies*
5. Nursing home
6. Funeral homes

III. The Death of a Christian is Precious in the Sight of God Because There Will Be No More Sickness

A. We All Experience Sickness in Our Lives

1Cor 15:54 So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have 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 thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? 56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

1. Maybe just the common cold, or maybe the flu
2. Maybe something more serious like heart disease or cancer
3. Due to the curse of sin, these bodies wear down and finally wear out
4. "It is appointed to man once to die"
5. Rev 21:4 - "no more death"
6. Spurgeon told of the death of Richard Baxter the great puritan preacher. Baxter was weak and near death when a friend came to visit him. When asked how he was doing, Baxter answered, with great effort, "I am almost well." Spurgeon explained, "Death cures; it is the best medicine, for they who die are not only almost well, but healed forever. Death to the saints is not a penalty, it is not destruction, it is not even a loss."

IV. The Death of a Christian is Precious in the Sight of God Because There Will Be No More Separation

Re 21:4 And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away.

A. On Earth, We All Experience Separation

1. Mary and Martha knew separation from Lazarus, their brother
2. Some of you have lost loved ones recently
3. Jn 14:3 – Separation from the Lord
3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.
4. One elderly believer expressed it well. "As a boy I thought of heaven as a city with domes, spires and beautiful streets inhabited by angels. By and by my little brother died, and I thought of heaven much as before but with one inhabitant that I knew. Then mother died, and then some of my acquaintances, so in time I began to think of heaven as containing several people that I knew. Afterward another went, and yet another. By that time I had so many acquaintances and loved ones in heaven that I no more thought of it as a city merely with streets of gold but as a place full of inhabitants. Now there are so many loved ones there I sometimes think I know more people in heaven than I do on earth."

B. In Heaven There Will Be No More Separation

1. No untimely separations by death
2. No funeral processions, no funeral homes
3. No more sad farewells

V. The Death of a Christian is Precious Because it Provides Entrance into Heaven for the Child of God

A. Death is Not Death....

1. If one knows the Lord - It is a change of place, a change of state a transfer from one realm to another
2. If it kills no part of us, except that which hindered us from perfect life
3. If it raises us in a moment from darkness to light, from weakness to strength, from sinfulness to holiness.
4. If it perfects our faith by sight, and let's us behold Him in whom we have believed.
5. If it rids us of doubt and fear, sickness and disease, sorrow and sadness
6. For Christ has conquered death, for Himself, and for those who trust in Him.

B. The Death of a Saint

1. The death of a saint is a witness to the world that the Christian life can be brought to a successful conclusion
2. "Be faithful until death and I will give you a crown of life" may seem like a tall order
3. We can finish well because "Greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world"
4. Death of a saint is precious because it gives those of us who are still running the race a witness.
5. A child visited his grandma and went out into her backyard to play. He happened on a small bird's nest with little blue eggs in it. It was as if he had discovered a treasure all his own. When it was time to leave, his grandmother promised to keep an eye on the nest until he returned. Several weeks passed before the lad returned. He immediately went to the back yard to check out his nest. He ran back into the house with tears running down his cheeks. "Grandma," he cried, "Someone has destroyed my beautiful eggs. Nothing is left but a few pieces of broken shell. My treasure is gone!" Grandma comforted the young boy and she explained, "Child, there is no destruction. There were little birds inside those shells and now they have flown away. They are singing now among the branches of the trees. The eggs are not wasted, your treasure is greater now. At death, nothing remains here except the broken shell. For the dead saint, it is a good day.

Conclusion:

1. Trust Christ as Savior
 - a. Each one of us has an eternal soul
 - b. We will live forever somewhere and in only in this life can we determine where we will spend eternity
 - c. Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
2. Now is the time to prepare for eternity
3. Winston Churchill planned his funeral so that after the hymns and funeral service had been completed and after the benediction had been spoken, a bugler high in the dome of the cathedral would play "Taps" the universal signal that day is over. But as soon as "Taps" was finished, another bugler on the other side of the dome played "Reveille," the signal of awakening, of a new day beginning. Churchill's message was this: it may be "Good night" here, but it is "Good morning" there.

12 What shall I render unto the LORD for all his benefits toward me? 13 I will take the cup of salvation, and call upon the name of the LORD. 14 I will pay my vows unto the LORD now in the presence of all his people. 15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. 24 But none of these things move me, neither count I my life dear unto myself, so that I might finish my course with joy, and the ministry, which I have received of the Lord Jesus, to testify the gospel of the grace of God. 6 For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.