

The Death of a Believer

Dave Rodabaugh

1. The death from God's Viewpoint

Ps. 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.

2. Death from the viewpoint of the believer who went home

Num. 23:10 Who can count the dust of Jacob or number the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and may my end be like theirs!"

Prov. 14:32 When calamity comes, the wicked are brought down, but even in death the righteous have a refuge.

Rom. 14:8 If we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. So, whether we live or die, we belong to the Lord.

Phil. 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Phil. 1:23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;

3. From our viewpoint—we mourn

Eccl. 3:4 a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance,

4. God is our refuge (refuge is often with reference to enemies)

Ps. 34:8 Taste and see that the LORD is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

Ps. 46:1 God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble.

Ps. 91:2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust."

5. God comforts us

Ps. 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

Ps. 119:52 I remember your ancient laws, O LORD, and I find comfort in them.

2Cor. 1:3 Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God. 5 For just as the sufferings of Christ flow over into our lives, so also through Christ our comfort overflows. 6 If we are distressed, it is for your comfort and salvation; if we are comforted, it is for your comfort, which produces in you patient endurance of the same sufferings we suffer. 7 And our hope for you is firm, because we know that just as you share in our sufferings, so also you share in our comfort.

6. Others comfort us

John 11:19 and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them in the loss of their brother.

7. We can't know what is in heaven.

2Cor. 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know --God knows. 3 And I know that this man --whether in the body or

apart from the body I do not know, but God knows-- 4 was caught up to paradise. He heard inexpressible things, things that man is not permitted to tell. 5 I will boast about a man like that, but I will not boast about myself, except about my weaknesses.

8. Our attitude toward promises—similar to that of Heb 11 (though they will be on the new earth and we will be in heaven)

Hebr. 11:13 All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. 14 People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. 15 If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. 16 Instead, they were longing for a better country --a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.