

Should You Think About Your Death?

Many Christians will think about death, especially their own death, because of the teaching they've come under in the church and because they're most likely unsure of their final fate.

The author of the book, 'Erasing Hell', a pastor and theologian, describes his encounters (plural) with death this way:

"I visited a man on his death bed yesterday. I left confused.

This man had no relationship with Jesus, no interest in the gospel, yet no fear of death. His only desire was to ease his physical pain and die without a struggle. I couldn't understand it. Really? No fear of death at all?

The first time I remember seeing a dead body was when I was eight. I was terrified! It was my stepmother's body in a casket...

*Forty years later, I still get deeply disturbed at funerals. Whenever I see a dead body, I inevitably think, That will be me soon. Then all sorts of uncomfortable thoughts follow."*¹

Why such a response? How could a professional Christian and church leader think like this?

The answer is found in the type of faith they operate under – either faith in their Christian religion, faith in Almighty God, or trust (faith) in their much loved and perfect Father.

You see, the Christian religion makes you feel good while you're active and healthy, but it 'falls down' as the reality of death approaches. Religion pacifies you mentally until it's time to face the Judge.

One reason for 'wobbly' faith in the presence of death is the understanding of it from an OT perspective rather than from NC reality. For example: These verses are used to justify their reasoning, but this is OC.

- "Teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom." (Psalm 90:12)
- "It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart." (Ecclesiastes 7:2)
- "The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth." (Ecclesiastes 7:4)

Imagine standing before a God who "dwells in unapproachable light"². Wow. How exciting to be in Father's presence after we have been Judged and finally cleared of all wrong-doing because Jesus has personally spoken to us, "I forgive you everything". Yet most Christians who look forward to going to Heaven, fear death and the Judgement.

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1 – Francis Chan (15-5-2016) "Do You Think About Your Death?"
(www.desiringgod.org/articles/do-you-think-about-your-death)

2 – 1 Timothy 6:16