

Death is Precious for God's Saints

Introduction

1. In death as in life, God's people are precious to Him.

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.

- **Let us endeavor so to live that when we come to die even the undertaker will be sorry. (Mark Twain)**
- **Death is not extinguishing the light from the Christian; it is putting out the lamp because the dawn has come. (Unknown Source)**

2. David was one who thanked God for His deliverance (Psalms 116).

A. David's great distress.

Psalm 116:1-4

B. God's great mercy.

Psalm 116:5-11

C. David's great gratitude.

Psalm 116:12-19

3. Often times ignored and despised by the world, God's people are always precious to Him in life and in death.

A. Because He purchased them.

B. Because they accept His pardon.

C. Because they worship Him.

D. Because they live for Him.

E. Because they are faithful to the very end of life.

Because He Purchased Them

1. **The focal point of God's wonderful plan was Christ's death.**
 - A. **By the death of Christ, God proves Himself to be just and the justifier (sin is punished and sin is forgiven).**
Romans 3:23-26
 - B. **Christ's death brought forgiveness to people under both covenants.**

Hebrews 9:15 And for this reason He is the Mediator of the new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

2. **The church of Christ – the church belonging to Christ, was bought with the blood of Christ.**

Acts 20:28 Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.

Because They Accept His Pardon

1. God's pardon is based on His great love and sacrifice.

A. We can read of God's gift that is beyond measure.

1 John 4:9-10 In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and **sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.**

2. Pardon is not something that is automatic – we must accept it or reject it!

A. In the United States vs. Wilson in 1833, George Wilson refused the pardon of President Andrew Jackson and was executed. The U.S. Supreme Court stated:

- 1) "A pardon is a deed, to the validity of which delivery is essential, and delivery is not complete without acceptance."
- 2) "The court cannot give the prisoner the benefit of the pardon, unless he claims the benefit of it..."
- 3) "A pardon is an act of grace, proceeding from the power entrusted with the execution of the laws... (but) delivery is not completed without acceptance. It may then be rejected by the person to whom it is tendered..."

3. David accepted God's pardon.

A. He met the conditions by accepting his sins, repenting, and making animal sacrifices.

Psalms 51:1-3, 17, 19

4. **The thief on the cross accepted God's pardon.**
 - A. **He met the conditions: accepted his guilt, repented, and asked to enter God's kingdom through Christ.**
Luke 23:39-43

5. **We accept God's pardon if we meet the conditions given for the gospel plan that we are under today.**
 - A. **Jesus gave the conditions: One must believe the gospel, submit to water baptism to have one's sins washed away, and then they can receive the benefit of salvation.**

Mark 16:15-16 And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

- 1) **We do not read where one be baptized as an infant and be saved and then believe some 12-14 years later.**

- 2) **We do not read where one can believe and be saved, and then be baptized later or not at all.**

Because They Worship Him

1. All “men” should worship God.

A. Holy people worship a holy God.

Psalms 96:7-9 Give to the LORD, O families of the peoples, Give to the LORD glory and strength. Give to the LORD the glory due His name; Bring an offering, and come into His courts. Oh, worship the LORD in the beauty of holiness! Tremble before Him, all the earth.

2. Jesus calls each of us to worship God.

A. Jesus teaches what true worship really is.

John 4:20-24

3. Jesus gave the pattern of what true worship is.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

A. The continued steadfastly: regular attendance.

B. In the Apostles' doctrine: taught the inspired word of God.

C. Fellowship: took up a collection every first day (1 Cor 16:2).

D. Breaking of bread: partook of the Lord's Supper weekly.

E. Prayers: prayed to God through Jesus Christ regularly.

F. Sang from the heart, not played on the harp (Col 3:16).

Because They Live for Him

1. Our life's purpose is to live FOR HIM. Created to serve God.

A. We are to fear and obey God.

Ecclesiastes 12:13 Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God and keep His commandments, For this is man's all.

B. We can see that we are to serve Christ and not ourselves.

Luke 9:23 Then He said to them all, "If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow Me.

C. We are to conform to God – not to man. Think about it, are our attitudes godly or worldly?

Romans 12:1-2 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, **acceptable to God**, which is your reasonable service. (2) And do not be conformed to this world, **but be transformed by the renewing of your mind**, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.

D. We must in all situations at all times live for Christ!

Galatians 2:20 I have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**; and the life which I now live in the flesh **I live by faith in the Son of God**, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Because They Are Faithful to the Very End

1. There are so few who truly obey God and remain faithful always.

A. Consider this:

2 Timothy 2:19 Nevertheless the solid foundation of God stands, having this seal: "The Lord knows those who are His," and, "Let everyone who names the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

1) God knows the names of all of His faithful people, and they are the ones who truly separate themselves from sin.

B. We read of the Apostle Paul and others who have greatly loved His appearing.

2 Timothy 4:6-8

C. Only the faithful few will be rewarded with an eternal life with God in heaven!

Revelation 2:10

Conclusion

1. In life and in death, God's people are truly precious to Him.

Psalms 116:15 Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints.

2. Are you ready to accept or reject God's pardon?

A. In Mark 16:15-16, Jesus gave the conditions:

1) Believe the gospel, submit to water baptism, and be saved from sin.

