

The House of Mourning

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Introduction: There are basic lessons of life that we need to be reminded of each day.

- A. There are times like those we have experienced in the last week that remind us so well of the brevity of life. **(Psa 90:12)**
 - 1. While the pain of these events is evident, it is far better to be reminded of this truth than to live life as if we will never die! **(Ecc 7:1-2, 4-6)**
 - 2. The truth is that most people in this world are running from facing the undeniable fact of their upcoming death!
 - 3. There is a wisdom that God promises us if we would open our eyes!
- B. We need to harmonize the difference between what we say and what we do!
 - 1. The worst deception we can experience is self-deception. **(Jas 4:13-17)**
 - 2. How many of us are as this businessman, taking care of business and ignoring the Lord's business?

I. The house of mourning teaches us about priorities.

- A. The conversion process causes us to look to the final end of things and order our lives! **(Rom 13:11-14)**
 - 1. We make provisions for our faith and deny provisions for our flesh. Is that your priority?
 - a. We are equipping our selves in God's word. **(2 Tim 2:15)**
 - b. How have you viewed these assemblies? What will you take home?
 - 2. We will not walk in the commonly accepted practices of the world. **(Rom 13:13)**
 - a. "not in revelry and drunkenness" - The modern social drink will be avoided.
 - b. "not in lewdness and lust" – We will not look at the things the world does.
 - c. "not in strife and envy" – We will not put ourselves as the first priority, others come first. **(Phil 2:3-4)**
 - 3. The Lord becomes the center of our lives. **(Rom 13:14; Col 3:1-4)**

"God's eternity and man's mortality join to persuade us that faith in Jesus Christ is not optional."- A. W. Tozer

- B. When we see the end of all things we know what has real value and what does not. **(2 Pt 3:10-11)**
 - 1. What if we saw the physical things as God does? **(1 Tim 4:8)**
 - 2. What does an over-emphasis on things do to our faith? **(1 Tim 6:6-10)**
 - 3. The reason many churches have those who are carnal and complainers is that their hearts have been focus upon the temporary and not upon the Lord's work.
 - 4. An understanding of these things will let us take losses gracefully. **(1 Cor 7:29-31)**
 - 5. What are your priorities? Be honest!

II. The house of mourning can give us great comfort.

- A. This comfort can only come to those who have hope in Christ. **(Rom 8:18)**
 - 1. Hope is a strong term. It expresses the confident expectation of God to fulfill what He has promised. **(Tit 1:2)**

2. It is encouraging to know that the difficulties of this life will last for a short time. **(Heb 10:36-38)**

“I never knew what joy was until I gave up pursuing happiness, or cared to live until I chose to die. For these two discoveries I am beholden to Jesus.” - Malcolm Muggeridge

B. It comforts us concerning the things that will really last. **(Mt 6:19-21)**

1. There is nothing of a material nature in this life that is sure. Some are in misery over the fear of losing that which one day they will inevitably lose.
2. The losses that might destroy another can be overcome by the Christian.

(Heb 10:32-34)

“He who does not fear death has no fear of threats.” - Pierre Corneille

3. What in this life really upsets you? ..makes you happy?

C. It comforts me because I know that God is with me. **(2 Tim 4:6-8, 16-17)**

1. What makes our death bearable? We know that we will not be alone.

(Heb 2:14-15)

2. Consider the hymn “Be with Me Lord.”

III. The house of mourning makes me urgent.

A. I cannot look at life or people in the same way. **(Acts 17:16-17)**

1. Many look at people as the world does. To these “Christians” the gospel gets in the way of their values.
2. The first order of business is salvation and the work of the Lord. **(2 Cor 6:1-2)**

“Death has an amazing power of altering what a man desires because death profoundly affects his outlook.” - Oswald Chambers

B. I will be urgent in dealing with my sins.

1. I will be urgent in becoming a Christian. **(Acts 2:37)**
2. I will be urgent in repenting as a Christian. **(Acts 8:21-24)**

“Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.”

3. What is one thinking about when he is not urgent?

C. I will be urgent in teaching others and in being taught. **(Mt 9:35-37)**

1. Too many look at growth in a world way by glorying in numbers.
2. Others are not urgent in repentance and in fact despise rebuke. **(1 Tim 4:1-2; 2 Tim 4:3-4)** “Death cancels everything but truth.”
3. I will live and teach God’s way to my family.

Conclusion: Are we being honest with ourselves?

A. Will we sleep with the world? **(1 Thess 5:1-6)**

“I have talked to doctors and nurses who have held the hands of dying people, and they say that there is as much difference between the death of a Christian and a non-Christian as there is between heaven and hell.”

B. Will we watch by faith? **(Mt 25:13)**

C. Will these events of this week wake us up to action or will we roll back over and go to sleep?

“Fear not that your life shall come to an end, but rather fear that it shall never have a beginning.” - John Newman