



Liberty Commentary September 1, 2009

Death is No Respector of Persons

We are reminded yet again with the death of Senator Edward Kennedy that death is no respecter of persons. Whether rich or poor, influential or homeless we will all face the same fate. In fact, in fifty to seventy five years from now most of us reading this commentary will have succumbed to the same fate as Senator Kennedy.

Ask ten people about their philosophy of death, and life after death, and most likely you will get ten different answers. In fact two subjects that we are often told to avoid are religion and politics. These two subjects are two of the most polarizing and controversial subjects in our human relationships. Some believe that the body simply goes in the ground and there is no God, Heaven, or eternal life, we are just creatures of chance that evolved billions of years ago. Others believe that if their good deeds outweigh their bad deeds that God will be pleased and they will be allowed into Heaven. Others trust in sacraments to gain the favor of God and the hope of eternal life. Others are totally ambivalent and could care less if there is a Heaven or hell and whichever place they reside after death is fine with them.

How do we make sense of all the various opinions and belief systems as it relates to the subject of life, death, and life after death? One method is to trust in our own logic and knowledge. The problem with trusting in our own knowledge is that there will always be knowledge that has not yet been discovered. No man or woman has ever yet attained nor will we ever attain the level of knowing all there is to know about every given subject matter. Therefore, to the atheist and agnostic they must admit that God could reside in the realm of undiscovered knowledge. Since God could reside in the realm of undiscovered knowledge it probably would be most imprudent to bet our eternal destiny on the basis of human logic and knowledge. Therefore, why not use the Bible as our source of truth and knowledge as it relates to matters of life, death, and life after death.

The bible says in Hebrews chapter nine, “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.”

When a man dies that is not the end of him because we are each born with an eternal soul that will never die. Based upon what each person does with regards to receiving Jesus as Savior by faith will determine our eternal destination in Heaven or hell. When a man or woman dies they appear before the presence of Christ for judgment. Therefore, just as Christ also died once it was not the end of Him and neither will it be the end of us. The Bible tells us that eternal life is attained solely by receiving Christ by faith apart from any human work. “For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves; it is a gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast. (Eph.2)

When you boil it all down, the Bible really talks about only two groups of people as it relates to life, death, and life after death. Those who have received Christ by faith and those who have not. The Bible refers to people as two different groups of “who-so-evers”. “For **whosoever** shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved”. (Romans 10). “And

whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.” (Rev.20). Two groups of “who-so-evers”; one group who has received Jesus as Savior by faith, the other group of “who-so-evers” who have never acknowledged and received Jesus into their life by faith. One group received eternal life (saved); the other group was cast into the lake of fire. Whether rich as a Kennedy or as poor as a beggar all of the 40 billion people who have passed across the topside of the earth since creation belong to one of these two groups.

If I am wrong and there really is no Heaven or hell and the Bible is just a fallible storybook for narrow minded and uneducated people, I still will have had a great life and have lost nothing. On the other hand if the atheist, agnostic, or those trusting in anything other than Christ are wrong, they have lost everything for eternity. It therefore behooves us to “get it right” on the issue of life, death, and life after death because death will be no respecter of persons.

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