

WHAT DEATH DOES NOT DO

By Keith Greer

“In those days Hezekiah was sick and near death. And Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, went to him and said to him, ‘Thus says the LORD: ‘Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.’” {2 Kings 20:1} Hezekiah prayed to God for mercy, and God extended his life by 15 years. Many people are uninformed concerning death. We want to examine some things death **DOES NOT DO**:

Make Sin Right. *“Say to them: ‘As I live,’ says the Lord GOD, ‘I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?’” {Ezekiel 33:11}* This clearly shows us that death is not a direct punishment for sin. Yes, because of sin, death passed to all of mankind – but we do not die because we have sin in our lives. Even death cannot clear our misconduct from the books.

End Our Influence. *“Some men's sins are clearly evident, preceding them to judgment, but those of some men follow later. Likewise, the good works of some are clearly evident, and those that are otherwise cannot be hidden.” {1 Timothy 5:24,25}* Must one’s influence end at death? The Hebrew writer told us that though Abel is dead, he still speaks. {Hebrews 11:4} Listen to the comforting words the apostle John wrote to those who were victims of the Roman persecution during the first century: *“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’” {Revelation 14:13}*

Mean Nonexistence. *“Also they are afraid of height, and of terrors in the way; when the almond tree blossoms, the grasshopper is a burden, and desire fails. For man goes to his eternal home, and the mourners go about the streets...Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.” {Ecclesiastes 12:5,7}* God’s children understand that death is not the end; rather, it is the beginning of a new journey.

Erase Memory. Remember Jesus’ teaching concerning the rich man and Lazarus. He said that Abraham told the rich man—*“Son remember...,”* {Luke 16:19-31}. The question is, “What type of memories will we have? Will they be memories of regret for having failed to properly prepare for this day or memories of peace, contentment, and bliss because we died prepared?”

Exempt Us From Judgment. *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.” {2 Corinthians 5:10}* We know that all men must die and that judgment follows death {Hebrews 9:27}. The truth is, when our eyelids close in death, and we awake on the other side, we’ll know what verdict and sentence will be rendered when we stand before the Judge – Jesus Christ.

Offer a Second Chance. *“But God be thanked that though you were slaves of sin, yet you obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine to which you were delivered. And having been set free from sin, you became slaves of righteousness.” {Romans 6:17,18}* There are those in the world who teach that we’ll all have another chance to obey God after we die. This is wishful thinking concocted by men –

no Scripture teaches such a doctrine. The time to obey and act is while we are living and breathing here on earth—death closes the door on further opportunity! Let me personally add that no “preacher or clergy” by his compassionate words and skill can alter one choice the departed made in their life and can preach no one into heaven or hell. It’s the chance we all have in LIFE!

We don’t really like to think about or discuss death. Still, we know that it is a part of life. Let’s learn to properly evaluate it and arrive at the conclusions taught in the sacred Scriptures. Are you ready to die my friend? ***