

What Will Others Say About Us Over Our Grave?

Introduction

1. This is a very important question. Because it does make a difference how we are remembered.

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment

What Will the World Remember

When everyone gathers to say their last goodbye,
What will they remember after you die?
Will the legacy you leave be of a job well done?
Will anyone be able to say that you were the one,
The one who cared to teach them how in God's ways to live.
The one who was always willing, of themselves to give.
Can they say you always spoke the truth, stood up for what was right?
Will they remember a person who was a Godly light?
A beacon shining brightly in a world so full of sin,
An example that changed others lives, helped them the victory win.
Will they talk of your example as your faith came shining through,
When life dealt heaps of sorrows and troubles out to you?
Will there be any comfort to dry their tear filled eyes,
And ease the sadness of their loss because they realize,
That your passing means a story of a saint gone home they'll tell,
And that you weren't just more fuel for the fires of hell.
We only get one chance as this world we pass through,
What will the world remember when they remember you?

--Ellen Kyle
April 13, 1995

2. Why this lesson? Because everyone is remembered for something they did or didn't do while they lived on earth.

Ecclesiastes 7:1-2 A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth; **Better to go to the house of mourning** than to go to the house of feasting, for that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart.

A. There is nothing better than a good name.

B. Why is it better to go to the house of mourning?

1) It is here, at a funeral, that we truly reflect on our life.

a. Foy E. Wallace Jr.

b. Oklahoma City Casualties

c. Laura Ingalls Wilder

1. Many sad when she died - why? Many have read her books.

2. Many today are glad that Christ died - why? Many have read the Bible.

3. What will be said of us?

- a. Did we have a positive impact on our fellow man?**
 - 1) Will it be said that we were full of faith, courage, hope, and perseverance?**
 - 2) Or will others struggle to find the good, positive things to say of us?**
- b. But most of all, were we a Christian - devoted to living our life for Christ?**
- c. Not just in name but truly in deed?**

Life Is a Book

1. Each day a page is written

- A. The deeds of the day are the sentences forming the paragraphs.**
- B. Our attitudes that we display are the punctuation marks.**
- C. Each year marks a new chapter in our book.**
 - 1) But when death comes upon us - the last chapter is finished and the book is complete.**

2. God keeps track of our deeds, whether good or bad, and we will be judged accordingly.

2 Corinthians 5:10 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.

3. We must strive to live our lives in such a way as to have our name added to God's book of life!

Revelation 3:5 "He who overcomes shall be clothed in white garments, and I will not blot out his name from **the Book of Life**; but I will confess his name before My Father and before His angels.

Revelation 20:12 And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is **the Book of Life**. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.

Revelation 20:15 And anyone **not found written in the Book of Life** was cast into the lake of fire.

Concerning Heaven:

Revelation 21:27 But there shall by no means enter it anything that defiles, or causes an abomination or a lie, but only those who are written in **the Lamb's Book of Life**.

4. Only those that have done the will of God will be able to enter into heaven.

Matthew 7:21 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.

Revelation 22:18-19 For I testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: If anyone adds to these things, God will add to him the plagues that are written in this book; and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part **from the Book of Life**, from the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book.

It's Not Too Late to Be Added to the Book of Life

1. While we have life we can change and do what the will of God is.

A. The apostle Paul changed:

ACTS 8:1-3

- 1) What if he had died at this point in life?
- 2) Would he have gone to heaven? Would he at that point have been able to say:

2 Timothy 4:7-8 I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

3) Jesus gave him the chance to do what was right.

ACTS 22:6-10

- a) Paul, having a fertile heart, wanting to do what was right, obeyed the will of the Lord and was baptized for the forgiveness of his sins!

Acts 22:16 'And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.'

B. We can also change. How?

- 1) By recognizing the wrong in our life and wanting to rid ourselves of all sin and turn our life over to Jesus.

C. Won't you accept what the book of God tells you to do in order to be saved?

- 1) Believe (*Hebrews 11:6*)
- 2) Repent (*Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30*)
- 3) Confess (*Romans 10:10*)
- 4) Baptized (*Acts 2:38; Mark 16:16*)

