

The Death of Our Family and Friends

Part III

We are Not To Be Ignorant About Death and Dying

As we continue on with this ‘series’ on death and dying, here are a few objectives of mine that I believe are part of ‘not’ being ignorant towards death and dying!

1. What we know is NOT salvation:
 - Being born again!
 - Baptism before, during, or after...sprinkle or dip, water baptism is nothing – period!
 - Partaking of the Lord’s Supper / Communion, as an adult, confirmation, etc.!
 - Modern bibles – ALL of them!
 - Getting right with God in your own / your pastor’s way!
 - Another Jesus!
 - Religion (s)!
 - Family Heritage!
 - Confessing your sins!
 - Prayers, candles and swimming pool baptism parties after you die!
2. What we know IS salvation!
3. Answer a few questions about death:
 - Do we / Can we KNOW about other’s salvation?
 - Can a person choose to ‘*Get Right with God*’ as they are dying?
 - It depends on what that means!
 - What does that usually mean to folks?
 - Is a death bed conversion a real one – just with no eternal rewards coming, as the pastors tell someone dying – or the family who asks afterwards?
 - What comes after one’s death?
 - Lots of other questions when dying and death show up.
 - Cremation or burial? Ceremony / short / no service? Graveside or not?

Now, this isn’t going to be a deeply and lengthy detailed study of all those questions and comments; that would be another series within a series – and the old website has the stuff that covers it all. And besides, these are questions and comments I think most of you that have been with me for a while already know.

But let’s just touch on them – maybe just good reminders – or maybe there will be someone who doesn’t know this stuff yet will ‘tune-in’ and get their interest perked enough to study it all even deeper! As our own years wind-down to a close, we can be thankful we have the truth concerning those things and aren’t ignorant.

We can see **I Thessalonians 4:13-18**, that we have no excuse for being ignorant of death or even the ‘rapture’ as most call it today – or the ‘cutting off of the Gentile nation,’ as we know it to be.

These verses deal with the dead ‘and’ the living who DO HAVE the Lord, according to the rightly divided scriptures, of course!

Let’s go to **I Thessalonians 4:13-18** – the classic verses that I am sure of which we are all aware. *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*

The underlined words and phrases are mentioned in the audio recording.

We are to NOT be ignorant of:

2Co 1:8 - *For we would not, brethren, have you ignorant of our trouble which came to us in Asia, that we were pressed out of measure, above strength, insomuch that we despaired even of life:*

2Co 2:11 - *Lest Satan should get an advantage of us: for we are not ignorant of his devices.*

Rom 10:3 - *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*

Rom 11:25 - *For I would not, brethren, that ye should be ignorant of this mystery, lest ye should be wise in your own conceits; that blindness⁶ in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in.*

1Th 4:13 - *But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.*

1Co 14:38 - *But if any man be ignorant, let him be ignorant.*

Hope:

False gospel hope is a false hope. A false hope that makes people respond is an imitation hope. An imitation hope is a false hope and so a false hope is a dead hope!

Pastors, authors, etc. have created their own hope design – based on strength of their own faith, their obedience to being baptized, church attendance, tithes and offerings record, their leadership positions in their local church, their “amen”’s & “park there, brother”’s and active participation in their ‘local church activities when the doors are open (visitation, choir, etc.)

Believe that Jesus died and rose again? Really? That's all?

See **I Corinthians 15:1-11**

Romans 10:9-11 - *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the scripture saith, Whosoever believeth on him shall not be ashamed.*

The gospels had it differently, though. Believe, of course, but believe what?

Check out **John** and the infamous **Acts 8:36-38** – all BP – Before Paul!

- **John 1:18** - *No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him.*
- **John 1:34** - *And I saw, and bare record that this is the Son of God.*
- **John 1:49** - *Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.*
- **John 1:51** - *And he saith unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Hereafter ye shall see heaven open, and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of man.*
- **John 3:18** - *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
- **John 3:36** - *He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.*
- **John 6:69** - *And we believe and are sure that thou art that Christ, the Son of the living God.*
- **John 11:27** - *She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.*
- **John 20:31** - *But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name.*

- **Act 8:37** - *And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God.*

Prevent - *to go before; to precede.*

Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

Be not ignorant of death and dying and you will be comforted!

