

PRECIOUS IN HIS SIGHT

This thought came to me recently while attending the memorial service for a fellow Believer. The Pastor read the following verse of Scripture -- *"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His Saints"* (Psalm 116:15).

A funeral/memorial service is a solemn occasion and often many tears are shed at the thought of a loved one passing away. In some societies there are hired mourners to moan, groan and carry on for the dead. It is an opportunity for friends and relatives from distances to gather to remember the departed one.

We attended many funerals in our years of Missionary work in South Africa -- we witnessed many different ways the different tribes conducted themselves at these services. Some followed their tribal customs, others went wild and threw themselves on the coffin, others planted containers of food and drink on the fresh grave in case the departed one needed nourishment in the after world.

This Scripture verse from the Psalms tells us that for the departed Christian there is rejoicing in Heaven at the arrival of the faithful Saint. Now, we must explain that the word Saint is used here in a very Biblical way (1 Corinthians 1:2) meaning one who has accepted the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ, who died on the Cross for our sins, and has made us worthy of the title of Saint and given us the assurance of a place in Heaven.

This brings to mind the difference of a "Hope-So" person and a "Know-So" person. The "Hope-So" person has no real assurance of Eternity in Heaven -- even though they may have been a Church member, lived a good life, was outwardly moral and an up-right citizen. The "Know-So" person is one who has had a personal experience with the Lord Jesus Christ, has confessed their sins, has received forgiveness, and is depending ONLY on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross for their Salvation.

The Philippian Jailer asked the Apostle Paul, *"What must I do to be Saved?"* to which Paul replied, *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be Saved"* (Acts 16:30,31).

Paul also explained to the Ephesian Church, *"For by Grace you are Saved through Faith, and not of yourselves -- it is the Gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast"* (Ephesians 2:8,9).

So, our Salvation and future after death depends entirely on the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross and there is nothing we can add to it, nor boast thereof. It is GOD ALONE, through CHRIST ALONE, in what HE has recorded in the Bible, that makes all the difference between Heaven and hell.

Remember -- it was Jesus Himself who told Nicodemus, a very learned and powerful Pharisee of his day -- *"You MUST be Born Again"* otherwise *"you CANNOT see (or enter) the Kingdom of Heaven"* (John 3:3).

God has made Salvation and Assurance so very simple and clear in His Word. It is a shame that man has complicated it with Church dogma and man-made rules and confused the majority of the people of the world to the point that they cannot see and grasp God's simple Plan of Salvation.

Remember -- to be "Precious in His sight" you MUST be a "Saint of God" and you MUST -- Confess, Repent, Believe, Receive, and Have Full Assurance -- Hallelujah!

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