The Hour Of Death, Then What

Intro: There are many things connected with death that we shall never comprehend not fully understand until we have experienced it. However God has seen fit to reveal in His Word certain that the He would have us know of this event.

I. Death Is Certain: There Is No Escape From It.
   A. Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:"
      1. There are many appointments we may refuse to keep according to our own will in this life.
         a. The appointment with the Lord on the Lord’s Day.
         b. But, such is not true of death.
      2. 2 Sam. 14:14 “For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.”
   B. Ecc. 9:5 “For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.”
      1. How do the living know they shall die.
         a. By the fact that life is progressive.
         b. By the death of others.
         c. By the testimony of the Scriptures.
      2. We cannot escape death, we are going to die.
   C. If only we could impress this fact, that death is certain, upon all men; upon all of us here at this time.
      1. Would we become Christians.
      2. Would we as Christians, live faithfully.

II. Death Is Uncertain.
   A. This seems to contradict the former point, but it is never the less true.
   B. We know we shall die, this is certain; but we do not know when we shall die.
      1. It may be suddenly or gradually, announced or unannounced.
      2. Thus there is no assurance of tomorrow, today or even the next hour.
      3. Jam. 4:13-14 “Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: 14Whereas ye know not what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.”
   C. Death:
      1. Death is certain—so prepare!
      2. But when?
      3. Death is uncertain—so prepare now!
         a. 2 Cor. 6:2 “(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)”
         b. Heb. 4:7 “Again, he limiteth a certain day, saying in David, To day, after so long a time; as it is said, To day if ye will hear his voice, harden not your hearts.”
III. DEATH IS LONELY AND FEARFUL FROM A HUMAN STANDPOINT.
   A. Friends and loved ones may desire, and we may desire them, to go with us, but when we die, we die alone (cf. an elderly couple when one dies.)
   B. This point is not true of the Christian.
      1. All naturally fear death, but the Christian can meet death unafraid.
      2. Psa. 23:4 “Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.”
      3. 1 Cor. 15:55 “O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

IV. DEATH IS SIGNIFICANT: FULL OF MEANING.
   A. What Is Death?
      1. According to the Scriptures death is a separation; a separation of the spirit or soul from the body; Jam. 2:26 “For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
      2. Compare the sinner who is spiritually dead.
         a. Isa. 59:1-2 “Behold, the LORD’S hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear; 2But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
         b. Rom. 6:23 “For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
         c. Eph. 2:1 “And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”
      3. However, let it be recognized that death is not the ending of being.
      4. Thus in the Scriptures it is also spoken of as a sleep.
         a. Mat. 9:18, 23-25 “While he spake these things unto them, behold, there came a certain ruler, and worshipped him, saying, My daughter is even now dead: but come and lay thy hand upon her, and she shall live…. 23And when Jesus came into the ruler’s house, and saw the minstrels and the people making a noise, 24He said unto them, Give place: for the maid is not dead, but sleepeth. And they laughed him to scorn. 25But when the people were put forth, he went in, and took her by the hand, and the maid arose.”
         b. 1 Thc. 4:13-14 “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. 14For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.”
   B. Further, it is a separation from:
      1. All earthly possessions: how futile then to put these first in our lives.
      2. All earthly ties: what error to please them above the Lord.
      3. All opportunities to prepare: no second chance, how foolish then not to prepare now.
   C. Death is also a blessing.
      1. Rev. 14:13 “And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
      2. Ps. 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints.”

Conclusion: After death, what? The judgment! Heb. 9:27 “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.” Then what? Eternity! Where will you spend eternity? In heaven, or in hell? If in hell you have no one to blame but yourself.