

Learn From A Near Death Experience

- Happens so quickly over before we had time to think
- Slipping on wet moss near waterfall cave
- We all have or will have our own memories.
- The moment when we thought we were going to die.
- A moment when we would have died except...
- In that moment all else recedes. Everything seemed so important was shown to be unimportant
- Only one thing mattered then ... our soul and our relationship with God!
- If ... remember that moment ... Make good choices

When Near Death becomes Death

- One day in the future an event will begin as all near death experiences ... But end in our death.
- we will consider the outcome on other side of death.
- No 2nd chances ... no way to fix what should be done
- We have to be prepared before that moment.
- The wise never lose sight of this even in their youth.
- *Rejoice, O young man, in your youth, And let your heart cheer you in the days of your youth; Walk in the ways of your heart, And in the sight of your eyes; But know that for all these God will bring you into judgment. Eccl 11:9*
- The Key: For **all that we do we will be brought into judgment** ... then we are are brought in – **Prepared!**

Paradox of Losing and Saving Life

- *For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" Mk. 8:34-37*
- If we want to save our life when we lose it
- We have to lose our life so it will be saved then
- The Paradox Explained:
- Gain the whole world and lose your own soul
- What will you give in that moment on the other side of death if you could save you soul?

Losing Our Own Soul

- Even thinking about that moment is enough to bring fear and terror to our hearts
- We won't have to go through a near death experience if we can keep this in our heart.
- *The rich man also died and was buried. 23 And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. Luke 16:22*
- When a near death experience becomes death...
- If we are unprepared ... agony far beyond our fear of the death of our body. We go on living ... with regret and sorrow that will last all eternity.

- *whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake and the gospel's will save it. Mk. 8:34-37*
- Are we living to die or living to live?
- If we want to save this life by enjoying all that this world has to offer we will lose it for all eternity.
- If we lose our life here by giving up all the hopes and dreams that must be lost to follow Jesus we will save our life for all eternity.
- *For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? what will a man give in exchange for his soul?*
- The rich man lost his soul ... what would he give then to save it? The time to think of that is now not THEN!

If We Want....

- Jesus to intervene at the last moment of a near death experience and “*save our soul*” at moment of death
- We must “***come after Him,***” “***deny ourselves,***” “***take up our cross***” and “***follow Him***” now.
- *Then Jesus said to His disciples, “If anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me. For whoever desires to save his life will lose it, but whoever loses his life for My sake will find it. 26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul? Mt. 16:24-26*
- Do we believe this? Are we acting like we believe it?
- Will it take a near death experience or just more faith?

Losing Our Life to Save it

- *Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world — the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life — is not of the Father but is of the world. 17 And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever. 1Jn. 2:15-17*
- The world is easy to love. It contains things of enticement, pleasure and satisfaction ... but it is temporary and when it is gone it is gone forever.
- If we lose our life here ... we can abide forever

Paul “Lost” his Life

*“But what things were gain to me, these **I have counted loss** for Christ. **I have suffered the loss** of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ.” Phil. 3:7-9*

*I have **been crucified with Christ**; it is no longer I who live, but **Christ lives in me**. Gal 2:20*

Paul lived every to die. He died to this world so he could live when this life is over.

A Question of Priorities

- *“Remember Lot's wife. Whoever **seeks to save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life will preserve it.**” Lk. 17:32-33*
- Lot's family had two choices:
- Die with Sodom and Gomorrah.
- Leave Sodom and Gomorrah.
- It appears Lot's wife was torn.
- Jesus' revealed we all have the same choice.
- To die with the world in our sins.
- To die to this world and live on after it dies.
- How many compromises have we made? If it came time to make a choice would we be torn?

Seek the Above Put to Death...

- *If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ... 4Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth: fornication, uncleanness, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry. 6 Because of these things the wrath of God is coming upon the sons of disobedience, 7 in which you yourselves once walked when you lived in them. Col. 3:1-7*

The Price of our Confession

- Jesus is Christ and Lord = full repentance.
- No matter what the gain... Sin must be “**lost**.”
- Frivolous and unworthy goals must be “**lost**”
- In our “fruits worthy of repentance” we “**lose our life**.”
- *I have **suffered the loss of all** things, and count them as **rubbish**, that I may gain Christ*
- *I have been crucified with Christ; it is **no longer I who live**, but Christ lives in me;*
- Do I live my life in melody with these words?

We Would not be the First

- *They were stoned, they were sawn in two, were tempted, were slain with the sword. They wandered about in sheepskins and goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, tormented — 38 of whom the world was not worthy. They wandered in deserts and mountains, in dens and caves of the earth. Heb 11:37-38*
- This is what faith is capable of accomplishing.
- If we can't do it ... Look at your faith.
- Put yourself into that moment when a near death experience turns into death ... Will the sacrifices so much then?

A Difficult Decision for Some

- *Then Jesus, looking at him, loved him, and said to him, "One thing you lack: Go your way, sell whatever you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, take up the cross, and follow Me." Mk 10:21*
- If we want to save our life we must lose it.
- We must “*come after Him,*” “*deny ourselves,*” “*take up our cross*” and “*follow Him*” now.
- “*Remember Lot's wife*”

Unworthy of Me

- For too many today:
- Any command that causes unhappiness is set it aside, since “God wants me to be happy.”
- This is how “*the desire for other things chokes the word.*”
- If Jesus had held this attitude, we would have no gospel.
- If Paul had felt like this, he could not have spoken of them as rubbish.

For the Moment

- Our time and resources are ours.
- we can still choose where we use them.
- based on things we enjoy or profit us.
- “*My life and I will live as I please.*”
- If we want it to be Permanent:
- We “*lose our life, “suffer the loss of all things”*” and *love Jesus more than these*