

DYING GRACE

In our lesson text, Paul turned his attention away from preparing Timothy for a new phase of life in time, to preparing himself for a new phase of life in eternity.

- When Jesus faced death, he embraced it the way He did with life – confidence with God (Luke 23:34).
- When Stephen faced death, he embraced it the way he did with life – confidence with God (Acts 7:54-60).
- When Paul faced death, he embraced it the way he did with life – confidence with God (2 Tim.4:6).

What did they know that we should learn about facing death? The application of the doctrine of Dying Grace gave them confidence with God to face death.

“For I am already being poured out as a drink offering (spendo / p.p.ind), and the time (ho Kairos) (Eccl.3:2) of my departure (tes analisis) (2 Cor.5:6-8) has come (epistemi / perf.a.ind) (Heb.9:27).” (2 Tim.4:6)

The phrase, “**the time of my departure has come,**” could be explained by a modern illustration of commercial air travel. Once you have secured a ticket, you board the plane at the appropriate time of departure – “A **time** to be born and a **time** to die.” (Eccl.3:2)

This lesson will study five aspects of Dying Grace so that when the time of departure comes you will embrace it in confidence with God.

1. There are three categories of death associated with Adamic sin (Gen.2:17; 3:4).

- **Spiritual death** is passed onto all mankind at the moment of physical birth (Gen.2:17; Rom.5:12) (1 Cor.15:22). It is separation from God in time apart from faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Rom.1:16; 1 Cor.15:1-4).
- **Physical death** is passed onto all mankind apart from the Rapture of church age believers (Gen.2:17; 1 Thess.4:13-18; Heb.7:29; Eccl.3:2). It is separation of the soul, spirit, and body. (1 Thess.5:23; 2 Cor.5:6-8; Phil.1:21-24).
- **Second death** is passed onto all members of the human race who physically die with faith in the gospel of Jesus Christ (Gen.2:17; Rom.6:23; John 3:16-18, 36; Rev.20:6; 21:8). It is separation from God for all eternity because name not written in the redeemed Book of Life (Rev.20:11-15).

2. There are two conditions under which a believer can physically die.

He can die under **dying grace**. Dying grace is being transferred from time to eternity under ideal soul condition (2 Tim.4:6-8). It glories God – “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.” (Ps.116:19; John 21:19; Amos 5:8)

He can also die under the **sin unto death**. Sin unto death is a reversionistic believer being transferred from time to eternity under unpleasant soul conditions (1 John 5:16). It does not glory God – “For Sheol cannot thank Thee, death cannot praise Thee; those who down to the pit cannot hope for Thy faithfulness.” (Isa.38:18)

3. Dying grace is the ultimate grace promotion in time.

“Knowing that the laying aside of my earthly dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.” (2 Pet.1:14)

“According to my earnest expectation and hope, that I shall not be put to shame in anything, but that with all boldness, Christ shall even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, **to live is Christ, and to die is gain.**” (Phil.1:20-21)

It is important to come to death in confidence with God (2 Tim.4:6) -“For in this way the entrance into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ will be abundantly supplied to you.” (2 Pet.1:11)

“The Lord will deliver me from every evil deed and will bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom; to Him be the glory forever and ever. Amen.” (2 Tim.4:18)

4. Under dying grace, God selects the condition and means of physical death. There are two sides to the door of physical death: earth side and the heaven side (Phil.1:21-23).

Can you identify the earth side from the heaven side? “But I am hard –pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.” (Phil.1:23-24)

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| • Absence from the body | To be home with the Lord | (2 Cor.5:8) |
| • Departure | Be with Christ | (Phil.1:23) |
| • Apart from the body | Caught up to third heaven, Paradise | (2 Cor.12:3-4) |
| • Lay aside tent | Eternal house in heaven | (2 Pet.1:13-15; 2 Cor.5:1, 4) |

How your body dies is not as important as how your soul is transferred from time to eternity (Rev.2:10; Judges 16:28-31) [Samson].

5. Application of the doctrine of dying grace will allow the spiritual advancing believe to face death in confidence with God and without comes / worldly fear.

Satan tries to connect cosmos fear and doubt with death (Gen.3:4) [Eve] – “And might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives.” (Heb.2:15).

“You will know that your tent is secure, for you will visit your abode and fear no loss.” (Job 5:24)

“Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; **for Thou art with me**; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me.” (Ps.23:4; Matt.28:20) [Jesus]

Death is not something that the believer should fear or dread – “You will come to the grave in full vigor, like the stacking of grain in its season.” (Job 5:26; Gen.25:8) [Abraham]

“All these died in faith.” (Heb.11:13)

The loss of a loved one can create a temporary vacuum in your soul. Begin the adjustment process with fragrant memories and allow the Lord Jesus Christ and the filling ministry of the Holy Spirit and God’s words to comfort and to fill this vacuum (2 Sam.12:23) [David]; 1 Thess.4:13, 18; Gal.5:22-23; Gen.37:33-35; 44:28-34) [Jacob].

Don’t be a Naomi (delight) who turned into Mara (bitter) (Ruth 2:13, 20).

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