

How to Grieve the Death of a Loved One (48 Minutes)
1 Thessalonians 4:13, 2023-12-31A, #1

Introduction: Today I want to talk to you about how to grieve the death of a loved one.

- I. Grieve with Hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).**
 - A. “Hope” translates the Greek noun ἐλπίς (*elpis*), which means a confident expectation that something is going to happen. The verb form of the noun is ἐλπίζω (*elpizō*).**
 - B. Grieve with a confident expectation that death is separation in the Bible and not annihilation (Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:8; cf. Hebrews 9:27).**
 - C. There are three kinds of death in the Bible:**
 - 1. Physical Death – Separation of the soul and spirit from the body – the body sleeps not the soul and spirit (Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59-60; cf. Daniel 12:2; John 11:11-14).**
 - 2. Spiritual Death – Separation from God in trespasses and sins (Ephesians 2:1).**
 - 3. The Second Death – Eternal separation from God in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:6, 14).**
 - D. Grieve with a confident expectation that death is a transition (2 Timothy 4:6-7; cf. Philippians 1:23).**
 - 1. “Departure” in 2 Timothy 4:6 translates the Greek noun ἀνάλυσις (*analysis*), which was used to refer to a ship taken up anchor to sail to another shore; soldiers breaking up camp ground to move to another camp; the release of a prisoner after his time had been served; the removal of the yoke from the oxen at the close of the day when it was time to rest.**
 - 2. “Depart” in Philippians 1:23 translates the Greek verb ἀναλύω (*analuō*), which is the verb form of the noun ἀνάλυσις (*analysis*).**
 - E. Grieve with a confident expectation that there are two destinations after death – heaven and hell (Luke 16:19-31; 23:42-43; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Psalm 16:11; Philippians 1:23).**
- II. Cry, Weep, and Mourn with Hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13).**
 - A. Weeping is both biblical and therapeutic.**
 - 1. Assignment – Google the benefits of crying.**
 - 2. Jesus wept at the grave of Lazarus even though He knew He was going to raise him from the dead (John 11:35).**
 - 3. Joseph fell upon the face of his father Jacob and wept when Jacob died even though Joseph knew Jacob was in a better place and that he would see him again (Genesis 50:1).**
 - 4. The children of Israel wept for Aaron for 30 days after he died (Numbers 20:29).**
 - 5. The children of Israel wept and mourned for Moses for 30 days (Deuteronomy 34:8).**
 - B. I believe that there is no termination date on grieving those who love the deceased more than they love God (cf. Matthew 10:37; 22:37).**
 - 1. An idol can be any person, place, or thing that we value or love more than God.**

2. Job valued God more than any person, place, thing on earth (Job 1:12-22).
 - a. When Job lost all of his earthly possessions, he still had what he valued most – God!
 - b. God holds our breath in His hand; therefore, it is dangerous to love any person, place, or thing more than God (Job 12:10; Daniel 5:23; Luke 12:16-21; Acts 17:28).
- III. Rest in the Sovereignty of God (Acts 27:22-26).**
- A. God is sovereign – He is in control at all times and over all things (Daniel 4:35; Isaiah 46:9-10; Psalm 135:6).
 - B. I believe that when the servant of God is in the will of God and obeying the word of God he or she cannot die until his or her work is done here on earth:
 1. The fire cannot burn him or her up – Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego (Daniel 3:1-30).
 2. The lions cannot eat him or her up – Daniel (Daniel 6:1-28).
 3. The sword cannot cut him or her up – Peter (Acts 12:1-19).
 4. The stones cannot break him or her up – Paul at Lystra (Acts 14:1-20).
 5. The storms cannot drown him or her up – Paul in a shipwrecked (Acts 27:1-44).
 6. The snakes cannot poison him or her up – Paul on the island of Melita or Malta (Acts 28:1-6).
 - C. It is important for the servant of God to be in the will of God and to obey the Word of God.
 1. God will not bless a modified version of His Word, Will, and Ways:
 - a. King Saul modified God’s command regarding the Amalekites (1 Samuel 15:1-35).
 - b. David modified God’s commands regarding the Ark (2 Samuel 6:1-21; cf. Exodus 25:10-15; Numbers 4:15; Deuteronomy 31:9; Joshua 3:3; 1 Chronicles 15:11-15).
 2. There were two students who were constantly causing explosions in my high school chemistry class when we went to lab:
 - a. My partner in lab would not read the book and if she read the book she would not follow the instructions in the book, and she was always causing explosions.
 - b. There was a straight “A” student in the class – a genius – he would read the book, but he wanted to come up with something that was not in the book; and he was always causing explosions.
 - c. Those of us who read the book and follow the instructions in the book got the results that the book said we would get.
 3. Many obey a portion of what the Bible says, and because they do not get the results that the Bible promises, they conclude that the Bible does not work (James 1:22-25):
 - a. Many couples read Ephesians 4 and 5 but do not obey the instructions of God in these chapters.
 - b. Many quote Isaiah 26:3-4; Philippians 4:6-8 but do not fully obey.
 - c. There is a relationship between belief and behavior – you determine what you believe by how you behave.

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