

THE PORTAL OF DEATH

Ecclesiastes 7:1 ... "A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one's birth"

Are you apprehensive about death? You are not alone. Many people do not wish to think about death because they are uncertain about where they will go after they die. If you mention death in a conversation with them, they may become upset. They may even walk away. Others genuinely fear death. And then there are those people who do not want to rush things; they want to bask in their current lives as long as possible without thinking about death. They avoid funerals because they do not want to be reminded that they are mortal. Even many Christians find the discussion of death upsetting, distasteful, or unnerving, especially if they are young and expect to live long lives.

Today's verse, when paraphrased, states that "the day you die, will be better than the day you were born." There are a couple of practical reasons for this, plus one very important spiritual reason. First, your birth was painful both for you and your mother (but especially for her). Be thankful that you do not remember your own birth. If you could remember it, it would probably traumatize you for life. Second, your birth was the start of a long, difficult journey to adulthood, filled with many mistakes, injuries, and broken hearts. Although many aspects of your life are blessed and happy, if all of the bad times were condensed into one big day it would be overwhelming.

Today's verse tells us that your death is more important than your birth, because at death you will instantly pass through a portal into the presence of God where you will remain in pure perfection and joy for eternity. Of course, that is true only if you are a born-again follower of Jesus. If you are not, the portal you will pass through will be very unpleasant and it will land you in a terrible place, also for eternity.

If you fear death, that may be an indication that you are not a born-again child of God. No believer should fear death. I am looking forward to it with eagerness. You say, "That is easy for an old man to say because he has lived a full and intriguing life." But I have felt eager to enter into God's presence since I was a child. I know what is awaiting me, and I will happily pass through the portal of death to get there whenever God is ready to receive me. If you do not feel ready for death, seek counseling from a pastor, or ask God to confirm your salvation.

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