

Sermon Notes - Sunday 10 June 2018

Death: thinking, believing, acting biblically

Luke 12: 13 – 21 1 Corinthians 15: 50 – 58

Death distanced

Having distanced himself from the concept of death, the rich fool had a surplus (*Luke 12: 17 – 19*) Surplus can be given away, hidden away, used for unnecessary expenditure, or we can pretend we are just scraping by.

What should be the response of Christians to “surplus”?

How does the teaching of *Matthew 6: 19 – 21* apply to us?

Death - its reality

Scripture teaches about the reality of death, and St Paul affirms “For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (*Philippians 1: 21 – 23*)

How do we respond to this teaching?

We are made in the image of God with a soul. From your knowledge of scripture (*Psalms 42: 1 – 2, Luke 23: 46, Acts 7: 59, 1 Corinthians 15: 40 – 44*) How would you describe the soul to someone who asks, and how important is the concept of the soul to you?

Death conquered

Christian Aid uses the strap-line “We believe in life before death”. How does this relate to our knowledge of scripture, our daily living and the promise of life after death? Christians are “citizens of heaven” (*Philippians 3: 19 – 20*) How should this knowledge impact our life in the present?

You have attended a funeral service. Afterwards a mourner asks you what it means to commend the deceased into the hands of God. What would be your reply?

What hymns, songs, readings, would you like at your funeral/Thanksgiving Service? What does your choice say about your understanding of the Christian faith?

St Paul writes, “The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are God’s children...co-heirs with Christ.” (*Romans 8: 15*). Assurance is a gift from God – have you been enriched by the witness of people who have Christian assurance, especially towards the end of their lives?

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