



Today's Sermons

Morning: Baptized Into What?
Evening: King Manasseh

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FOR THE RECORD	
Sunday Bible Study	32
Sunday AM Worship	51
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Wed. Bible Study	28
Offering	\$1874



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Times of Services:

Sunday

Bible Study:... 10:00am
AM Worship...11:00am
PM Worship:...6:00pm
2nd Sunday:.....1:30pm

Wednesday

Bible Study:.....7:00pm

Radio Program

Sunday:.....7:30am
"Back to the Bible"
AM 580 WSKS
93.5 FM

**We Extend A
Warm & Cordial
Welcome
To All Our
Visitors!**

FOUR STATEMENTS OF DAVID ABOUT DEATH

Roger Campbell

The Bible's record of the life of King David of Israel shows him as a man that enjoyed occasions of great accomplishment. It shows him as one that ruled over a glorious kingdom. At the same time, other biblical pictures of his life show us a man that struggled with his own weaknesses as he faced the temptations, difficulties, and burdens of life. Some of those challenges and problems he brought upon himself and other people by the mistakes that he made.

Life and death were topics about which David made some memorable declarations. Though these statements are recorded in the Old Testament, and we understand fully that we do not live under the Law of Moses, they do contain truths that still apply today. The four statements of David that we will list below have provoked much serious thought and discussion through the centuries. Let us briefly consider them.

(1) "But now he is dead . . . can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" (2 Samuel 12:23). David made this statement after the death of the child that Bathsheba bore as a result of their adulterous affair. The dead child could not return to his father, but the father (David) had the hope of being reunited with the child in another realm of existence. When? After David's passing from this life. This verse gives great hope to those who have lost loved ones that were faithful servants of Jehovah, or who died in the very early years of their life. There is the expectation of one day being reunited in "the paradise of God" (Revelation 2:7).

Continued Inside

Top 5 Ways that Unsaved People Think They're Saved

"I Am A Good Person Doing Good Deeds"
salvation by human merit

"Faith Alone"
salvation by sinner's prayer / "accepting Jesus in my heart"

"I Can Feel it"
salvation by emotional experience

Denominations & Traditions
salvation in "Churches" not built by Christ

"God Is Blessing Me" / Prosperity
salvation by "health & wealth"

We Can Know that We Know

Jim Bullington

(2) "O my son Absalom, my son, my son Absalom! Would God I had died for thee, O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33). These words tear at the heart of any person that understands the love between a parent and his/her beloved child. David made this statement after his rebellious son Absalom died. Though Absalom had purposely brought much hurt to his father and his father's kingdom, David loved him dearly. Oh, the times that parents have desired in their hearts that it might be them to suffer or even die in the stead of their children. Such unselfish, unconditional love cannot be bought with money. It is also in great contrast to many in our time whose lives and attitude clearly show that they are "without natural affection" (2 Timothy 3:3).

(3) "I go the way of all the earth" (1 Kings 2:2). This is what David told a different son, Solomon. "The way of all the earth" has reference to physical death. By the decree of the Lord God, death is an appointment for all men (Hebrews 9:27). David conquered many nations, but like all others that have sojourned on the planet earth (except Enoch and Elijah), he had to go the way of death. David was a prophet of the Lord God (2 Samuel 23:1,2), but he still had to face the reality of death. David had wealthy and famous sons, but still he died like all other men before and after him. Physical death is unavoidable. We must face this fact and wisely prepare for it by faithfully serving the Lord.

(4) "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints" (Psalm 116:15). We know that this is a true statement because it came from God. We need to accept this truth! It is sometimes difficult to "let go" of loved ones and friends that have passed from this life. However, if they died "in the Lord," then they will be blessed for it (Revelation 14:13). Thus, we should not sorrow as those that have no hope (1 Thessalonians 4:13-15). The only thing that really matters in our journey through life is to be prepared for our exodus from it! Some will go into everlasting punishment and some into eternal life (Matthew 25:46). Which will it be for us? If we die as faithful saints of Jehovah, our death will be precious in His sight.

While death is not a favorite topic for most of us to discuss, the reality is that we need to give serious thought to our plans for matters on the other side of the river of death. The joy or heartache that we will know throughout eternity will be determined by our preparation for our exodus from this old world. May we all give serious consideration to David's four statements about death that we have noticed together. Thank God for the life that we can have through His Son (John 10:10) and for the eternal life that He has promised to those that love Him (Titus 1:2; James 1:12).

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Aug 28 – Song Service
- Sept 4 – Men's Business Meeting & Ladies' Class
- Please give support money for Chinese orphans to Minnie Kennell

What do you know? This question can be asked in several ways and it can take on different meanings just by voice inflection. As asked here however, the question is intended to focus on the things of which we can have absolute certainty. I know that I exist. I know that something other than me exists. I know that some things are alive and others are without life. I know a lot of things. However, we want to focus this question on a particular spiritual matter. Namely, can we know that we are among the saved?

The little 5 chapter book of 1st John is a great place to start this discussion. This small epistle contains 32 verses containing the word "know" or "known." This is to be expected I view of the historical setting for 1st John. An error commonly referred to as the Gnostic heresy was either a reality at the time John wrote, or he was addressing it in its seed form prior to it becoming a full-blown movement. Regardless of its state, Gnosticism involved the belief that matter was evil and that its influences could only be escaped by special knowledge obtained only by elite initiates. So, it is understandable that knowledge occupies a place of prominence in 1st John.

That being said, hear what John had to say about knowing that we are saved: "We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death." (1 John 3:14). This passage affirms that those to whom John wrote could possess certain knowledge of their relationship with the Father, that they had "passed from death to life."

Another passage from John says, "We know that we are of God, and the whole world lies under the sway of the wicked one." (1 John 5:19). To be "of God" would imply one's acceptable spiritual condition. Once again John affirms certain knowledge of one's spiritual condition is available to believers.

One final passage from John will be considered. "Now by this we know that we know Him, if we keep His commandments." (1 John 2:3). Note the structure of John's statement. He doesn't stop with saying that we can know; he strengthens his statement by saying that we can know that we know! God has not left some matters to speculation and salvation is one of them. If we believe God's word, we are forced to agree that we can know that we are saved and we can know that we know it!

How does one obtain this knowledge? Is it a feeling that one gets – maybe a burning sensation in the breast. Perhaps one can conclude that he is saved by a sense of euphoria that sweeps over a person. Or, maybe chill bumps? How does one know? Well knowing that one is saved is surely a matter of faith and faith comes by hearing the word of God (Romans 10:17). Since the Bible says nothing about a burning in the breast, or feelings of euphoria, or chill bumps, those cannot be the way we know.

It really is simple. We know we are saved when we do what God says do! When we cease relying on our way and depend on God's way, we can know and know that we know!