

Voices of the dead

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Gray

Introduction

1. Hebrews 11:4
2. The subject of death is one that effects everyone.
3. Some questions that we often think about regarding the dead are?
 - a. Where are the dead? Hebrews 9:27; Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 25:31-46
 - b. Are the dead conscious of us? Luke 16:28; Hebrews 12:1
 - c. What would the dead say if they could speak to us? Luke 16:28; Hebrews 11:4 but are we listening?
4. Communication with the dead is impossible, in the Bible we have some messages from the dead to the living. These messages are most important! What are these messages?

II Discussion

1. The voice of Samuel 1 Samuel 28:15-19
 - a. The occasion of Saul's visit to the necromancer of Endor. Deuteronomy 18:10-11 Thompson chain 2228 1 Samuel 28:11
 - i. The Philistines were gathered for war against Israel and Saul feared Vs 4-5
 - ii. God would not talk to Saul, so he resorted to a woman who had a familiar spirit. Vs 6-14
 - b. The message of Samuel to Saul is a message to the living today
 - i. The certainty of death. Vs 19; 1 Kings 2:2; Hebrews 9:27
 - ii. The proximity of death, tomorrow Vs 19 1 Peter 1:24; James 4:13-14; Job 14:1
 - iii. Many may refuse to talk about death but it is coming to all of us
 - iv. No one knows when we will die, nor how close to death we are at this moment, cancer, heart attack etc.
2. The Voice of the Rich man. Luke 16:23-28
 - a. The message of the rich man is a message concern life after death
 - i. Job 14:14 If a man dies, shall he live again?
 - ii. Immortality is seen, vs 23
 - iii. Death does not end it all Hebrews 12:1
 - b. The horribleness of the punishment of the wicked
 - i. Being in torment Vs 23
 - ii. There is the most severe suffering awaiting the disobedient in eternity. Its nature is fire, it is the opposite of comfort and its duration forever. Luke 16:24; Matthew 8:12; Mark 9:48; 2 Thessalonians 1:9
 - c. The warning to all, Lest they also come into this place of torment. Luke 16:28
 - i. The Bible is full of warnings Matthew 7:13-14; Ezekiel 18:20-32; Amos 4:12
 - ii. To those headed for the same place, listen to this rich man, "Don't come here whatever you do."

3. The voice of Able Hebrews 11:4
 - a. The message is preparations for death
 - i. The necessity of faith Hebrews 11:4 by faith
 - ii. Faith is necessary Hebrews 11:1; John 8:24 Acts 16:31; 2 Corinthians 5:7
 - iii. Able says the life of faith is the only life to live
 - b. The meaning of faith
 - i. Acceptable faith is obedient faith Vs 7 vs 8 vs 17
 - ii. Able says put your faith into action and obey God. James 2:24
 - c. The reward of faith
 - i. Able was righteous
 - ii. Obedient faith is imputed for righteousness James 2:23
 - iii. An obedient faith unites with Christ Galatians 3:26-27
 - iv. This kind of life (faithful) will lead to heaven Revelation 2:10
 - v. Able says, faith has its rewards trust and obey God and see

III Conclusion

1. Everyone should be willing to listen to and respect these voices from the dead, they speak the truth with all honesty and sincerity
2. Hear the voice of Samuel, the certainty of death
3. Hear the voice of the rich man, the certainty of life after death
4. Hear the voice of Able the necessity of preparation for death
5. Are you prepared for life after death? What are you waiting for?

Source: Sermons for Saints and Sinners p216