An Unexpected Death & The Sovereignty of God

* Eccl. 7:2

A. Introduction

1. From our perspective death sometimes is unexpected.
   - a. Our understanding is skewed by sin.
   - b. But thankfully, God hasn't left us to grope in the dark about death.

2. From God’s perspective death is not untimely.
   - a. God has perfect perspective on death. If we are to be comforted we need to be informed by His Word.

B. Sovereignty of God

1. The Scriptures teach us that God is sovereign.
   - a. He has supreme authority over all things.
     * Eph. 1:11 * Isa. 46:9-10 * Ps. 135:5 * Dan. 4:35
   - b. God does not act impulsively. He acts intentionally.
     * Isa. 14:24
     “…nothing happens on the earth and in heaven apart from the will and decree of Almighty God. That is to say, calamity and blessing, adversity and mercy, affliction and compassion, all arise from the all encompassing plan and purpose of God.”
     John Currid “Why Do I Suffer? Suffering and the Sovereignty of God”
   - c. God is never taken by surprise.
     * 1 John 3:20
   - d. The more we dwell on God’s sovereignty, the greater peace we will experience.

2. We must remember that God is Master and we are His servants.
   - a. When His purposes for our lives have been served He will take us home.
     * James 4:13-15
   - b. We have no guarantee of tomorrow.
   - c. It is God’s merciful gift to us that we do not know the day of our death.

C. Sovereignty of God Over Death

1. There is nothing we can do to postpone death.
   * Ps. 139:14-16 * Eccl. 3:1
   - a. We torment ourselves when we forget this truth.
     * Matt. 10:29 * Ps. 31:13-15

2. We must remember that God is Master and we are His servants.

   a. We still grieve because of our loss, but we also rejoice because we have God’s perspective on death.
   * 2 Cor. 5:8 * Ps. 116:15

E. Conclusion

1. Having God’s perspective on death brings us great comfort.
   * 1 Thes. 4:13
   - a. We can make practical preparations that glorify God.
     * work hard to provide for our family
   - b. We need to understand what happens after death.
     * Heb. 9:27
   - c. We need to understand the basis of God’s judgment.
     * Titus 3:4-5 * John 1:12

2. This hope is anchored in the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ.
   * 1 Cor. 15:20-22

D. Our Responsibility in Relation to Death

1. We can’t postpone the day of our death but we can prepare for our eventual death.
   - a. We can make practical preparations that glorify God.
     * be good stewards of that which God blesses us with
   - b. We don’t have any regrets (Rom. 12:16)
   - c. will, trust, advance medical directives

2. How can we prepare spiritually for our own eventual deaths?
   - a. We need to understand our own frailty.
   * Ps. 39:4-5
   - b. We need to understand what happens after death.
   * Titus 3:4-5
   - c. We need to understand the basis of God’s judgment.

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