

Sick, And Ready to Die

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Luke 7:1-2. "Now when he had ended all his sayings in the audience of the people, he entered into Capernaum. And a certain centurion's servant, who was dear unto him, was sick, and ready to die." When this verse says that the man was "ready to die" it means that he was almost at the point of death. Usually when someone says that he is ready to die, he is saying that he is ready to meet the Lord. I have had several people tell me through the years that they were facing surgery and might not survive it. What stands out to me is the way they looked at it. Instead of worry, or fear, each one said, "If I don't survive and don't see you again here on earth, I'll be waiting for you in heaven." No, there was no fear, just a calm acceptance of the situation, and that they wanted the Lord's will to be done.

Christians get sick here in this life and sometimes they die.

Does that make the word, and promise, of Jesus void? No, for while the body dies, the spirit does not and lives on. Those who die in Christ are said to be asleep, not dead. The sinner is said to be dead, even while alive in the flesh, but the believer is alive even though the body of flesh is dead.

So to be ready to die should be thought of as ready to meet the Lord no matter what the condition of our body is. We are all going to die in the flesh if the Lord tarries, it is a fact of nature. Since we know that it will happen and that we will stand before the judge of all the earth, everybody should be "ready to die." We can be ready because the Lord made the way for us to be saved. It was his blood shed, and his life given, that we could be redeemed from sin. There is no excuse for anyone to not be ready when either it is time to die, or the Lord comes back again.

Paul knew that his time here on earth was coming to an end as stated in 2 Timothy. **2 Timothy 4:6-7.** "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Paul didn't wait until he was near death to wonder if he was ready to

die, he lived for, and served, the Lord since the day he was saved. He didn't try to work his salvation, he was saved at the time he believed and obeyed the Lord's plan of salvation.

Hezekiah was another person in the bible who was told that death was near. **2 Kings 20:1.** "In those days was Hezekiah sick unto death. And the prophet Isaiah the son of Amoz came to him, and said unto him, Thus saith the Lord, Set thine house in order; for thou shalt die, and not live." Some people know when their time is near, and some have no idea. Either way a person should be ready to leave this life. As I have told people, "If you don't live without the Lord, you don't have to worry about dying without the Lord."

You don't have to be sick to die. Many people die every day in perfect health, it may be from an accident, or by violence. So take a moment, if you haven't already, and consider that there is death, and after that there is the judgment of God. **Hebrews 9:27.** "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." With all of this in mind, I ask you - sick, or not, are you ready to die?

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This is a dramatized version of facts taken from the book of I Samuel intending to show some of the customs of these ancient and traditional times

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