

Ready?

By Linville Dunaway
Corinth Christian Church

One thing I've noticed as I read the newspaper is the obituaries. What I see in them is that there is no certain age of the deceased. There is a wide variety of ages from the very young to the people of advanced age. This shows the truth of the words of Jesus when he said, "Your time is always ready." **John 7:6.** Truly we know not the day that we will be called out of this life.

In **Genesis 27:1-2** we read, "And it came to pass, that when Isaac was old, and his eyes were dim, so that he could not see, he called Esau his eldest son, and said unto him, My son: and he said unto him, Behold, here am I. And he said, Behold now, I am old, I know not the day of my death" Isaac realized that his life was short and that God could call him out of the earth at any time. If mankind could only realize this surely folks would think more of eternity and less of the material things of earth. Nothing that a person spends his life trying to gain of this world will go with him when he dies. **1 Timothy 6:7** "For we brought nothing into this world, and it

is certain we can carry nothing out." No matter how valuable or precious the things that a person owns in this world are they will be turned to ashes someday. **2 Peter 3:10** "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up."

Death is when the spirit leaves this physical body and goes to be with the Lord. The spirit will go when the Lord calls us and nothing and no one can prevent that from happening. After death is the judgment which man must face. **Hebrews 9:27** "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." Since this is going to happen it only makes sense that everyone should prepare to meet the Lord. God has seen fit to warn mankind of all these things and whether it is a man or a nation there will be a judgment. **Amos 4:12** "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, prepare to meet thy God, O Israel."

In the New Testament we see the rich man who had great plans to live and enjoy his wealth. He planned for a life on earth but had no thought

of God and the judgment. What became of his life of ease and his great wealth? **Luke 12:20-21** "But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God." He had no thought that his life would end that very night and that God would judge him. All that he had gained in this life was left for someone else. As I told a man once, "If you don't live without God, you don't have to die without God." **James 4:14-15** "Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. For that ye ought to say, If the Lord will, we shall live, and do this, or that."

We all know that life here is temporary and that people of all ages die. Even knowing this many people seem to try their best to ignore it and focus on life here in this physical body. I realize that a lot of people don't like to think of death and had rather just avoid the subject. If it seems to be an unpleasant subject to you then I would advise you to place your faith and life in the hands of Jesus.

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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

SAMUEL AND SAUL

SAUL, IN SEARCHING FOR HIS FATHERS LOST ANIMALS, HAS LOOKED DILIGENTLY THROUGHOUT THE LAND, NOW, WITH HIS SERVANT, HE COMES TO RAMAH...

BEHOLD NOW, THERE IS IN THIS CITY A PROPHET! SURELY HE CAN TELL US WHERE TO FIND THE LOST ANIMALS!

IF WE GO FOR HELP TO THE PROPHET IN RAMAH, WHAT CAN WE BRING HIM? OUR BREAD AND WINE ARE ALL GONE AND WE MUST BRING A PRESENT TO A MAN OF GOD!

NAY NOW, WE CAN NOT GO TO HIM!

BEHOLD, I HAVE HERE AT HAND THE FOURTH PART OF A SILVER SHEKEL! THAT WILL I GIVE HIM!

SO, WITH THIS SMALL OFFERING, SAUL AND HIS SERVANT APPROACH THE CITY, WHERE, AT THIS EXACT MOMENT, A GROUP OF MAIDENS ARE EMERGING TO DRAW WATER FROM THE WELL...

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