

Death Unexpected

IN a song titled, “*Death Unexpected*,” the song writer wrote these words, “...death unexpected, I surely was surprised, ...” ***Death unexpected***, it happens when one least expects it! A newborn child put in its crib for a nap, never to awaken again. A child who may play, in a street is struck by a moving vehicle or a stray bullet from a street gang fight. A teenager overdoses on drugs or dies in an automobile accident while out “joy riding” with some friends. A police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty, a construction worker on the job, or someone sitting in the quietness of their home - ***death unexpected!*** A terrorist’s bomb or a heart attack there is ***death unexpected!*** You name it, it happens all the time - ***death unexpected!*** It happens without warning often when one is in the prime of life and the future, humanly speaking, looks bright, but there it is - ***death unexpected!*** Unannounced, unwanted, un-prohibited! Standing as a monument to the grim reminder of death is the graveyard, a perpetual testimony to the mortality of man. ***Death unexpected*** is no respecter of person regardless of wealth, fame, education, societal influence, etc. When ***death unexpected*** calls, all must answer and yield. ***Death unexpected***, we cannot prevent it from happening, but we can be prepared, for it when it does. How can you do that? You do that by putting your trust in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour! Those who have repented of sin and received Christ as personal Saviour are prepared for physical death, for they know they are forgiven and saved, and at death though they are placed in the ground, their eternal soul will forever be with God in Heaven (2 Co. 5:6-8). For the Christian, death is not to be feared, for it has no hold - it is a vanquished foe (1 Co. 15:53-55). How can this be?

When a person comes to that place in his life and he realizes that he is a lost sinner, that Jesus Christ paid his sin debt in full by the shedding of His blood and death on the cross of Calvary. When he will repent of that sin and confess it to God, and by faith alone receive Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, then he is forgiven, and saved, for all eternity. (Ro. 10:9-10, 13; Jn. 3:16) Salvation is not something we deserve, or to be obtained by our good works - it’s based solely on God’s love and mercy - in the bestowal of His grace upon the repentant sinner (Eph. 2:4-9; Titus 3:5-7). Those who do not repent of their sin and receive Christ as personal Saviour have only eternal damnation in hell to look forward to (Mt. 25:41, 46; Rev. 19:15; 21:8). When should you receive Christ as personal Saviour? The moment you realize that you are a sinner for whom Christ died! Can it wait until tomorrow, or a more convenient time? We have no guarantee of our next breath, much less another day, for the Scriptures says, “Whereas ye know 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.” (James 4:14) “... behold, ***now*** is the accepted time; behold, ***now*** is the day of salvation.” (2 Co. 6:2 b)

Friend, until you are eternally saved, you are eternally lost! Will you repent of your sin and receive Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour? Then seek out a good, independent, Fundamental Baptist, Bible believing and Bible preaching church. Attend it regularly that you might be spiritually, fed from God’s Word to help you grow spiritually strong.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca