

Many people don't want to think about their death. Many people don't even want to talk about the subject of death. Those people might have fear or superstitious on the subject. However, death is a fact to all. Let's study Psalm 49 and learn what the Word say.

1. **Death for everyone is a fact**

Psalm 49 can be divided into three sections. The first section (Verses 1 to 9) is about everyone will die. Verse 2 addresses to all regardless you have low or high position nor rich or poor in respect to others. In this world, a lot of things can be brought, exchanged or achieved. However, it is not the cost of death. Verse 7 states no one can redeem the life of another or give a ransom for one's death.

2. **Everybody will die regardless of one's worldly success**

Verses 10 to 14 describe the difference on the perspective of life and death: those believe in God and those don't. One has to be careful by just reading verse 12. One has to read verses 6 and 13 together to interpret the content. God does not oppose people have wealth. God opposes those people that are either trust in their wealth and boast of their great riches (vs. 6) or who trust in themselves (verse 13). They are not seeing the true consequence of death. Verse 10 talked about they will perish and leave their wealth to others. In another word, they don't see the true meaning of life. What they are doing is keep accumulating wealth and gaining power & position as their purpose of life. Verses 11 talked about some people plan to give their properties for their future generations and name lands after themselves.

Hearst castle is a famous tourist site in California. It has a big mansion and many acres of land. I visited there and was impressed by the marbles in the building, the art works and gold and silver items inside. William Hearst was a very wealth man. He owned many businesses including the San Francisco Examiner, and many properties in different parts of US. He was also famous because he was a congressman. This is an example of someone who trusted his wealth and position instead of God. He still die and his future generations do not meet his desired

accomplishment. However, the author pointed to the solution on Verse 14. God's people will have a different outcome from them. God's people trust in God and not trust in themselves.

3. One needs awakening and transformation to have a different outcome

The last section of this Psalm, verses 15 to 20, described the outcome of God's people.

- a. Only God, through the death and resurrection of His son Jesus, can be the ransom for death. (John 3:16, Eph. 1:7, Gal. 1:4, I Peter 1:18-19, Heb. 9:15). This ransom is for eternal death so that one can have eternal life. One has to believe and accept Jesus as his/her Savior and Lord.
- b. We need awakening and transformation. We need to aware that we are going to a wrong path. We need to evaluate and see what are we doing, and determine do they fit our ultimate purpose.

Let's take Alfred Nobel as an illustration. He was a chemist and engineer. He had many inventions and the most famous one is dynamite. In 1888, Mr. Nobel was shock of reading his own obituary in a local newspaper. It was a mistake and supposedly to record his brother. This wrong obituary really concerned him. He has decided he wanted to be remembered for something other than invented the means to kill people efficiently with dynamite and made a lot of money from it. This wrong obituary was the awakening event for him. He has decided to start the Nobel Peace price to encourage those who foster peace, and started to donate his fortune to other good causes. When one seriously looks into the meaning of life and death, one can realize his/her life path and goal need to be changed.

Do you see the meaning of what you are doing? When I was in my early twenties, I realized life is without meaning unless I have God in my life. That was when I accepted Jesus as my savior and Lord. If you have not evaluated your ultimate purpose of life or have accepted Jesus as your savior, I encourage you to consider and made a decision today. Only Jesus can redeem you for eternal life and give you the true purpose of living.

For those that have accepted Jesus as savior and Lord, do you have the transformed life? The Bible stated a true believer is a new person in Christ and has been transformed (II Cor. 5:17, II Cor. 4:16). Psalm 49:16-19 gives an example. A person who relied on God would not be affected by seeing others being wealthy nor influenced by others' the worldly "success". One should not be afraid or jealous of others' wealth or high position. As stated in Phil. 3:8, "What is more, I consider everything a loss because of the surpassing worth of knowing Christ Jesus my Lord, for whose sake I have lost all things. I consider them garbage, that I may gain Christ."

Let us pray. Each one of you examines yourself. Do you trust something that has no guarantee like wealth, or trust in God? Is your present action matches the your ultimate purpose of life from God? Do you need a transformation or a spiritual revival? May God guide you!