Introduction

Death is a subject we don’t like to talk about. Yet it is something we all will face.

We would rather avoid it yet as Billy Graham has written: “Death is the most democratic experience in life for we all participate in it. We think of its happening only to other people. We don’t like to grow old and we don’t like to die. The Bible teaches that death is an enemy of man and God. But it also teaches that this enemy, death, will ultimately be destroyed forever; that in fact it has already been defeated at the cross and resurrection of Jesus Christ.”

I. One of the hardest things we will ever do is say goodbye to those we love. 23:1-2

Sarah was 127 years old when she died. Abraham and Sarah were soul mates. How did Abraham feel? He mourned and he wept over her.
The Bible consistently portrays death as an enemy.

“The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” I Corinthians 15:26

We grieve, but we do not despair, because we have hope.

II. Death does not negate the promises of God. 23:3-18

We believe the promises of God extend beyond this life.

Abraham needed to buy a burial site for Sarah.

So Ephron’s field in Machpelah was deeded to Abraham.

When it comes to death, there are some very practical matters we need to decide.

- Burial site
- Funeral Arrangements
- Cremation or traditional burial
- Closure – saying goodbye
- Funeral Service – music, Scripture, testimonies
- Estate Planning – Do you have a will, guardians, and an executor?
- Financial Arrangements
- Leaving a Legacy

But the most important of all is the spiritual care.

- Are you at peace with God?
- Do you know where you will spend eternity?

III. We demonstrate our faith in God’s promises in how we face death. 23:19-20

Abraham buried his wife Sarah in the tomb at Machpelah. The Hittites were watching.

When Abraham buried Sarah in the land of promise, it was an act of faith.

It is in death that Sarah laid hold of the promise.

“All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth. People who say such things show that they are looking for a country of their own. If they had been thinking of the country they had left, they would have had opportunity to return. Instead, they were longing for a better country—a heavenly one. Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for he has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:13-16
“For he was looking forward to the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God.” Hebrews 11:10

We are strangers and aliens in this world too.

“Our citizenship is in heaven and we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” Philippians 3:20

“If we have placed our faith in Christ as our Savior and Lord, we have passed from death to life.

“I tell you the truth, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned; he has crossed over from death to life.” John 5:24

“Be of good courage my brother. I feel the bottom and it is sound.” Hopeful to Christian in Pilgrim’s Progress

We stand on the promises of God.

Conclusion

Are you standing on the promises?

If you were to die, do you know that you would be in heaven with Christ?

“And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He who has the Son has life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have life. I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” 1 John 5:11-13