# **Facing Death with Faith**

Hebrews 9:27 reminds us, "it is appointed for people to die once—and after this, judgment." Death is certain; it is a separation, but it is not the end. In Christ, we face it with hope.

### I. Death Is Certain (Genesis 3:19; Hebrews 9:27; Psalm 90:12)

- A. Sin brought death into the world: "For you are dust, and you will return to **dust**" (Genesis 3:19).
- B. Death is not an accident, but an appointment: "It is *appointed* for people to die once" (Hebrews 9:27).
- C. Life is short and fragile:
  - 1. "Indeed, they pass *quickly* and we fly away" (Psalm 90:10).
  - 2. "Teach us to number our days *carefully* so that we may develop wisdom in our hearts" (Psalm 90:12).
- D. The first step of faith is to accept death's certainty and live with wisdom.

## II. Death Is a Separation (Ecclesiastes 12:7; James 2:26; 2 Corinthians 5:8)

- A. Death is not extinction but division: "The dust returns to the earth as it once was, and the spirit *returns* to God who gave it" (Ecclesiastes 12:7).
- B. James says, "the body without the spirit is *dead*" (James 2:26).
- C. Paul reminds us that to be "away from the body" is to be "at <u>home</u> with the Lord" (2 Corinthians 5:8).
- D. For the faithful, death is separation from the body, but union with Christ.

## III. Death Is Not the End (Luke 16:22; Philippians 1:21; 1 Corinthians 15:54-57)

- A. Jesus showed that after death, the soul continues—Lazarus was comforted, the rich man was in torment (Luke 16:22-23).
- B. For the Christian, "to live is Christ and to die is *gain*" (Philippians 1:21).
- C. Death does not win: "Death has been swallowed up in <u>victory</u>... thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!" (1 Corinthians 15:54-57).
- D. Death opens the door to eternity—judgment for some, joy for those in Christ.

#### IV. As We Close (John 11:25)

- A. Jesus said, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will *live*."
- B. Death is certain; but it is not the end. The question is not if you will die, but are you ready?