

What Happens After Death IX  
By Greg Rangel

“Our new Constitution is now established, and has an appearance that promises permanency; but in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes” (Benjamin Franklin). Almost every weekend I open up the newspaper to see what is going on locally. I read about how someone was killed that same weekend. I turn the page and run across the obituary section in which I read the many names printed of those that passed away on such and such date and have left their loved ones behind. I cannot avoid asking the question, “did they know the Lord? Was Jesus their Lord and Savior? and, “where did they go?”

We are living in a time in which not too many will bring up the topic of death because that is too negative they say. But unfortunately death and taxes is something that we cannot avoid, so why not speak about it? Since this is a religious article, and not a political one, we will speak about death.

We would all love to live in a dream world in which everything is o.k., nobody gets sick, no crime exists, and in which everyone will go to heaven after death. But unfortunately we do not. The reality of death and hell still exists. We can close our eyes and repeat a chant to try to wish this reality away, but unfortunately the fact still remains, we will all one day die. Regardless whether we like or not, death will one day knock on our door as it has for many of our loved ones and all those that lived prior to us. It is an appointment that we will not miss. One day all of our names will one day appear in the local newspaper saying something about us and mentioning those that we left behind. Is this too hard for you to swallow?

Because death and hell are real Jesus came. He came to die for our sins, bring us peace with God, and give us eternal life. *“Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with god through our Lord Jesus Christ...But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now justified by his blood, we shall be saved from wrath through him. For if, when we were enemies, we were reconciled to God by the death of his Son, much more, being reconciled, we shall be saved by his life”* (Romans 5:1, 8-10). Is there anything more important than that? Can this world offer you anything better? No! Jesus said, *“Lay not up for yourselves treasure upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal”* (Matthew 6:19-20).

Are you too busy for God today? Are you enjoying your treasures too much that they are keeping you from receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior? Are you too important for God? The many funerals that I have done have not had a U-Haul following the hearse. Nobody will be able to

take their possessions, their money, or their positions with them when they die. For that very reason do not let them replace God in your life! Get right with God today and receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior. He will give you eternal life after death (John 5:24). Religion will not save you, your church will not save you, your many idols will not save you (1 Corinthians 8:4-6, 10:7-21, 1 John 5:21), your good works will not save you (Ephesians 2:8-9), your position will not save you, your “wisdom” and philosophy will not save you (1 Corinthians 1:19-29), and your money will not save you, only Jesus can save you (John 14:6, Acts 4:12, Romans 10:5-13, 1 Timothy 2:5) if you repent of your sins and receive Him as Lord and Savior (Acts 17:30-31). What is keeping you from receiving Jesus today?

No I am not asking you if you go to church! Neither am I asking you if you are religious! I am asking you though that if you were to die today where would you go, heaven or hell? You know deep in your heart and mind the answer to that. What will happen with you the reader when you die?