

Life and Death

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Recently we had deaths in our family. My niece, April, passed away. Then, my aunt died. Life and death are strange things. We do not choose the time or circumstances of our birth and should not decide when life will end.

Our niece faced the end in an amazing way. We saw her a few days before the disease took her, and we were encouraged and impressed by her spirit. As she had been all during her time on earth, she was a blessing to us.

A few years ago, my wife and I attended a funeral in a city near our home. The crowd was huge, and we had to park some distance away. The deceased was not someone we had ever met, but the husband of a lady we knew.

Speaker after speaker stood and praised the man. Almost every one of them said, "He was a good man." They told stories and honored him.

But it was not the most important thing. When life ends, it does not matter whether the man went fishing, or was a well-known citizen, or was on a bowling team, or coached baseball.

It matters whether he had accepted Christ as his Savior. I mean no disrespect to the man or his friends. But life and death are serious, important things. Our preparation for the next life is important. Life here on earth is so very short. The next life is very long.

We left the funeral wishing someone had told the hundreds there how they could have eternal life by accepting Christ. The people needed to know they could see their friend again. But no one spoke the important words.

The Bible says in Revelation 20:6, "Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power."

It will be alright with me if someone chooses to say nice things about me when the time comes, but the important thing is that forever my faith lies in Jesus Christ.

"Death is swallowed up in victory." (1 Cor. 15: 54)