

No one of us knows what the Lord's will is for us. But it is important to think about. The Lord might take any one of us at any time. What are we doing with our lives? Some people think we should rush out and devote ourselves to Christian work every possible minute and let the Lord take us. I don't think that's the Lord's plan. I think the Lord wants us to prepare to do the best we can, to make our lives accomplish the most for Him. But while we're preparing He wants us to be witnessing. He wants us to be serving Him. He wants us to be helping Christians to grow in grace and in the knowledge of the Lord.

But I think we should all think: suppose the Lord were to take us. Has my life been worthwhile? Have I really accomplished much for Him while I was here? In the Epistle to the Hebrews we read a statement that refers to Jesus' destroying the devil who holds the power of death and that Jesus frees those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death.

I don't know whether the non-Christian is as aware of the shortness of human life today as he used to be. I don't know whether this fear of death is as real a factor in their lives as it used to be. But I think that they are right in having fear toward it. It is a terrible thing to die unsaved. To die not knowing Christ.

But for those of us who know Christ I think it is important that we have a proper attitude toward death. Jesus Christ has destroyed the power of death. To the Christian death is simply a circumstance in the course of his existence. To the Christian I think death is like when a person is taking a walk in the mountains. You see the trail going along the side of the hill. You can follow it a distance and then it disappears. It disappears and goes around a corner into another valley. You don't know what it is like around there but it is just a change, a slight change, comparatively slight change in your existence.

I think^{to} the Christian that is what death is. You are free from the weakness and free from the difficulties. You are freed from the misunderstandings of this life, and you go to be with Christ which is far better. The fear of death should be a very real thing to the one who does not know Christ. But to the Christian there should be no fear of death, but a recognition that it is something that might come to us at any time.

Therefore a recognition that it is a special incentive to make every day count for the Lord, that it is a special incentive to live in the presence of God, and to realize that He may give us many years to serve him, or he may choose to take us at any time. Whatever He chooses, His will is best. So for the Christian I feel we should feel like Paul felt. Paul said in Phil. 1:21-25 (quoting text).

Paul said, To live is Christ but to die is gain. He said I desire to depart and to be with Christ. For the Christian death should have no terror. For the Christian it is only a step in that which God has for us. So I believe that God wants us to be constantly aware of the reality of death, something that is to come to everyone