

Death, Part 2: “Hope & Glory”
Various Passages
 Pastor Eric Yee

Grieve with hope as we hope in glory.

I. Grieve with hope

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 (NIV) = Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

1 Corinthians 15:17-19 (NIV) = And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ are lost. If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are of all people most to be pitied.

1 Corinthians 15:20-22 (NIV) = But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive.

How are we as believers to respond amidst the deaths of our unbelieving loved ones?

1. We recognize that none of us truly knows the state of another person's soul.
2. We remember the character of God and that salvation depends on him.
3. We run to God with our grief.

II. Hope in glory

Romans 8:18-21 (NIV) = I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. For the creation waits in eager expectation for the children of God to be revealed. For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the freedom and glory of the children of God.

Romans 8:22-25 (NIV) = We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies. For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what they already have? But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.

Two common problems for why we struggle to hope in glory:

1. We don't have an accurate expectation for this life.
2. We don't have an accurate expectation of the life to come.

Matthew 22:31-32 = And as for the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God: 'I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not God of the dead, but of the living."

John 11:5-6 = Now Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. **So**, when he heard that Lazarus was ill, he stayed two days longer in the place where he was.

John 11:14-15 = Then Jesus told them [his disciples] plainly, "Lazarus has died, and for your sake **I am glad that I was not there, so that you may believe.** But let us go to him."

John 11:23-27 = Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and everyone who lives and believes in me shall never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord; I believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

John 11:53 = So from that day on they made plans to put him to death.

Life Application

1. With the people in your life and in our church, how can you "weep with those who weep"? If you're currently suffering, how can you invite those in your life and in our church to "weep with you"?
2. What are specific ways that you can cultivate hope in glory (or "heavenly-mindedness")? Think of one corporate habit and one personal habit you can develop.