

Date: 31 December 2022

Speaker: Pastor Clement Chew

Topic: Ready to Die

Text: Psalm 116:15

1. New Year's eve is widely celebrated. It may come as a surprise to be considering death on the eve of a new year. The reality is that death is inevitable for all. Death can come at any time to anyone. We were never in control of our birthday. Neither will we be in control of our deaths. Would you be ready to die today? If we seek to be prepared for death, there are two requirements.

2. Firstly, one must be a saint (v15). Only the death of a saint is precious in the sight of the Lord. A saint is a holy one- only if your sins have been cleansed and forgiven can you be a saint. Otherwise, as the bible tells us, the wages of sin is death (see [Romans 6:23](#))- one would face eternal condemnation from God, spending eternity in the Lake of Fire, which is just punishment for our sins. You cannot bring one cent with you when you die, and your soul's destiny is sealed at death. Ensure that your sins are forgiven because it is your sins that separate you from God. The only way is for us to be cleansed by the precious blood of the Lord Jesus.

3. Secondly, you must see death as precious (v15). God sees the death of every one of His saints as precious. Thus, we must so regard our deaths as precious. There are three reasons why our deaths are precious:

a) Firstly, because we are precious in God's sight; we are His dear children that are cared for and loved by our Heavenly Father. He will not treat our deaths as a light thing.

b) Secondly, because the time of our deaths is in God's hands, nothing and no one can take us when our time is not up. Psalm 116 is a psalm of praise from the psalmist to God for preserving him from death. The fact that we are still breathing tells us that God has an essential task for us to complete. It is a task that we must individually seek the Lord in prayer to know. Do not say that in your affliction that you are useless. It is in the affliction of men that the glory of God shines brightest. Prepare and be ready in our hearts, knowing this time is not in control.

c) Thirdly, death is but a commencement of life above. When a Christian breathes his last breath, he will be safe in the arms of Jesus, awaiting the time for him to be resurrected with a glorified body. Death is thus but a sleep for a Christian. While we are absent in the body, we are present with the Lord! Are you ready to meet with the Lord face to face? Will the Lord say: well done, thou good and faithful servant? We cannot change the past, but we must be resolved to live for Christ right now!

*Ere the present year shall close, To the stroke of death must bow.*

*-Marcus Morris Wells (1858)*