

# Let Me Die The Death Of The Righteous

Intro: Rom. 15:4 “<sup>4</sup> For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope” Thus, let me direct your attention to the Old Testament, to a most significant passage of scripture.

1. Num. 23:10 “<sup>10</sup> Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth *part* of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his!”
  - a. This statement was made in the long ago by the prophet Balaam.
  - b. However, we want to give attention only to the statement made by the prophet rather than to him who made the statement.
  - c. Why? Because his life and character were the very opposite of the desire expressed.
  - d. Yet, the statement is true and commands our attention.
2. What lessons are presented here for our consideration and acceptance.

## I. THE FACT THAT ALL MEN MUST DIE.

**A. There was no doubt in Balaam’s mind but that one day he would die such should also be our understanding.**

1. 2 Sam. 14:14 “<sup>14</sup> For we must needs die, and *are* as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect *any* person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him”
2. Ecc. 9:5 “<sup>5</sup> For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten”
3. Heb. 9:27 “<sup>27</sup> And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

**B. It may be, with the frailty of life, this day would by your last what would be your desire? Would it not be as Balaam’s?**

## II. WE DIE EITHER AS RIGHTEOUS OR UNRIGHTEOUS.

**A. Balaam knew this, sometimes we seemingly do not.**

**B. There are but two classes of people.**

1. Mat. 7:13-14 “<sup>13</sup> Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: <sup>14</sup> Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it”
2. Col. 1:12-14 “<sup>12</sup> Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: <sup>13</sup> Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated *us* into the kingdom of his dear Son: <sup>14</sup> In whom we have redemption through his blood, *even* the forgiveness of sins:”
3. 1 John 5:19 “<sup>19</sup> *And* we know that we are of God, and the whole world lieth in wickedness.”

**C. Where would you be classed by God?**

## III. THEIR ENDS ARE VASTLY DIFFERENT.

**A. Mat. 25:46 “<sup>46</sup> And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal”**

**B. Such was implied by Balaam.**

**C. Righteous: Heaven. (describe)**

**D. Unrighteous: Hell. (describe)**

#### IV. ONLY THOSE WHO LIVE AS RIGHTEOUS CAN DIE AS RIGHTEOUS.

##### A. Who is the righteous?

1. 1 John 3:7 <sup>“7</sup> Little children, let no man deceive you: he that doeth righteousness is righteous, even as he is righteous”
2. Rom. 1:16-17 <sup>“16</sup> For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. <sup>17</sup> For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith”
3. Psa. 119:172 <sup>“172</sup> My tongue shall speak of thy word: for all thy commandments *are* righteousness”
4. Psa. 1 <sup>“1</sup> Blessed *is* the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly, nor standeth in the way of sinners, nor sitteth in the seat of the scornful. <sup>2</sup> But his delight *is* in the law of the Lord; and in his law doth he meditate day and night. <sup>3</sup> And he shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that bringeth forth his fruit in his season; his leaf also shall not wither; and whatsoever he doeth shall prosper. <sup>4</sup> The ungodly *are* not so: but *are* like the chaff which the wind driveth away. <sup>5</sup> Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous. <sup>6</sup> For the Lord knoweth the way of the righteous: but the way of the ungodly shall perish.”

- B. Gal. 6:7-8** <sup>“7</sup> Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. <sup>8</sup> For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.” (cf. 1 Cor. 15).

**Conclusion:** What is your state—if death should now claim you, how would you die, as the righteous or the unrighteous? Where will you spend eternity?