



When all is said and done

Where will you be? What will be your final state when all is said and done?

When you have told that last joke and performed your final good deed - when you have earned your last dollar and watched your final TV show - what then? Where will you be when all is said and done? The wise man has faced this question. He does not ignore the facts of life and death. The wise man knows that when all is said and done he must stand before his Maker. His last enemy, death, will not find him unprepared to meet his God.

But there is another man who walks our streets. He does not like what his conscience tells him. He creates his own paradise here and now. But it is empty and meaningless. It promises nothing. He has suppressed the voice of conscience and God has no place in his thoughts. And when all is said and done that man is seen to be a fool.

When all is said and done . . . It speaks of finality - the end. But is it?

THE WISE MAN

I have sat with a man when nothing more could be said or done. The pulse that once beat strongly was all but gone. He faced death with a steady eye.

No fear. No regrets. No sense of loss but rather of gain. He had spoken of victory over death. He had told me of the Son of God, the Captain of his salvation, who had triumphed over sin and death and hell. I was reminded of the words of another wise man. *“O death where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? Thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.”* I witnessed the death of a wise man - a prepared man.

There is but one certainty in life for all men and it is simply this: We shall all die.

THE FOOLISH MAN

I spent some time with another man, but nothing more could be said or done. He had asked for comfort in the face of death. He had lived without God and without hope. To speak to him about Christ the Son of God was as hard then as it ever had been. He wanted none of it! And yet he was about to be summoned into the presence of God. I reminded him that God had sent His only Son to seek and to save the lost. But his heart and mind were closed to such a message. He wanted peace in dying, but peace on his own terms. He had lived the life of a fool. He had said in his heart, *“No God for me”*. And when all was said and done, this man died a fool. For him there

was no hope in death and no peace with God.

TWO WAYS

There are but two groups of people in this world. Jesus Christ said this so plainly and He spoke the truth. In the seventh chapter of Matthew's gospel, Christ said there are two roads that people walk on - one is narrow, the other is broad. He says that to commence to walk along the first road is to find God and everlasting life. For at the entrance to this way stands the Lord Jesus saying, *“Come unto me all you that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest.”* And in another place in God's word He says, *“I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through me.”*

THE NARROW WAY

The narrow way is the way of trust in Christ for the forgiveness of sins. The narrow way is the way of wholehearted commitment to Christ as your only Saviour and God. It is the only way of peace. It is the way of holiness. It is the way of obedience. It is the exclusive way. No other way is revealed by God whereby we can face death with an assured peace and a confident hope.

Are you a disciple of the Lord Jesus and walking upon the narrow way? Have you come with your sins and burdens to that narrow gate which leads to life? At the entrance to that way have you seen the crucified God-Man? Have you asked yourself, *“Why did He die such a death?”* Can you say now, *“He was there as my sin bearer, enduring the penalty that I deserve for my waywardness and sin.”* And do you now know the inexpressible joy of forgiveness and total acceptance by God? Do you now live by faith in the Son of God who loved you and gave Himself for you? Do you have fellowship with Christ's true church and order your life by the Word of God?

These are the things that really matter, when all is said and done.

THE BROAD WAY

And do not forget, there is a broad way. Jesus said it leads to judgment and destruction, and many walk on it. The educated, the religious, the misled, the ignorant, the prosperous businessman, the rich, the poor, the old and the young, are all represented there. Proud people who will not yield their minds and wills to God's authority are there. Those who are indifferent to Christ are fellow travellers with those who mock at sin. It is a way that seems right to these people, but it ends in death and eternal abandonment. The same gracious Saviour who calls sinners to Himself and who proclaims life and peace and everlasting hope to all who come to Him in faith, will also say to the careless, indifferent and self righteous, *"Depart from me you workers of iniquity. I never knew you."* (Matthew 7:23).

WHAT ABOUT YOU?

When all is said and done you are either the wise man who built his house on a rock, or you are the foolish man who built his house on the sand? (Matthew 7:24-27). There is only one sure foundation in life that will remain unshaken when all is said and done. When you face that last enemy and you know that all you have said and done in this world will be left behind as your memorial among men—when eternal realities loom large on your horizon, where will you be standing? Will your foundation be Christ alone, through faith alone, by God's grace alone? When all is said and done, what shall it profit you if you have gained the whole world and lost your own soul? When every worldly support is removed and you stand before the throne of God, will the Judge of all the earth acknowledge you to be a

wise man or a fool?

The Lord Jesus said *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."* (John 3:16).

Are you trusting in Christ alone as your only hope in life and in death?

This is what really matters when all is said and done.

Think hard and long on these things. A truly wise person would.

John Cromarty



When
all
is
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He shall be like a tree planted by the rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither. Psalm 1:3.