

Bing Crosby – The Closeness of Death

On the 14th of October 1977 Bing Crosby the very famous American singer and actor was playing a round of golf on a Course near to Madrid in Spain. Just after 6.00 pm that day he putted the ball into the hole on the 18th green and then turned to those he had been playing with and said, “It was a great game of golf fellas”. Then immediately, without any warning he collapsed and died from a massive heart attack! The life of the notorious entertainer, who was seventy four years old, had come to a sudden end. Bing was having a great time with his friends on the golf course and he didn’t realise just how near he was to death and eternity.

That story illustrates very clearly the fact that death can be closer than you think. Just stop for a moment and ask yourself, “How close am I to death? How near am I to eternity? The reality is that your life could be almost over; you could be nearer to death than you imagine.

Many people live as if death is very far away. There are multitudes who think like the rich farmer in the New Testament that they still have “many years” to live (Luke 12:19). Especially when you are young or in good health you think that death is a long way off in the future.

But the solemn reality for all of us is that death is near at hand. The Scriptures remind us of that truth in many places. James taught that in a ‘little while’ we will be gone from this life (James 4:14). Paul reminds you that you don’t have long to live, when he said, ‘The time is short’ (1 Cor 7:29). David stressed that it’s not very far for you until the journey of life will be over, when he said, ‘there is but a step between me and death’ (1 Sam 20:3).

All of those verses of Scripture and many others emphasise the closeness of death. Therefore, how important it is that you face up to the fact that you don’t have much time left upon this earth. You will soon be gone from this life – perhaps sooner than you think!

What a warning that great truth is to you of the need to be ready for death and eternity. The Prophet Amos said, “Prepare to meet thy God” (Amos 4:12). That means that you need to be saved and by receiving Jesus Christ as your Saviour. And the important fact is that you need to be saved now, without any more delay -- lest you too should die very suddenly (Num 6:9 & 2 Cor 6:2).

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