

Funeral Sermon For Dorcas

Acts 9:36-43, "Now there was at Joppa a certain disciple named Tabitha, which by interpretation is called Dorcas: **this woman was full of good works and almsdeeds which she did.** And it came to pass in those days, that she fell sick, and died: and when they had washed her, they laid her in an upper chamber. And as Lydda was nigh unto Joppa, the disciples, hearing that Peter was there, sent two men unto him, entreating him, Delay not to come on unto us. And Peter arose and went with them. And when he was come, they brought him into the upper chamber: and **all the widows stood by him weeping, and showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made, while she was with them.**"

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- Though considered SAD by many, this occasion is to be considered HAPPY for one who is a Christian.
- Psalms 116:15, "Precious in the sight of Jehovah is the death of his saints."
- Ecclesiastes 7:1, "A (good) name is better than precious oil; and the day of death, than the day of one's birth."

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Devoted To The Church

- **Dorcas loved the truth.**
 - She believed Psalms 119:105, "Thy word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path."
- **Dorcas loved the Lord.**
 - Many times she assembled with the saints when she didn't feel good... always smiling and greeting those who attended.
 - Psalms 122:1, "I was glad when they said unto me. Let us go unto the house of Jehovah."
- **Dorcas loved her brethren.** "... showing the coats and garments which Dorcas made ..." Acts 9:39
- You could depend upon Dorcas ... She was there!

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FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED:

Life is brief.

- James 4:14, "What is your life? for ye are as a vapor that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away."
- Job 14:1-2, "Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble, he cometh forth like a flower and is cut down: He fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not."
- Psalms 90:10, 12, "The days of our years are three score and ten, or even by reason of strength fourscore years: yet is their pride but labor and sorrows, for it is soon gone, and we fly away ... Teach us to number our days that we may get us a heart of wisdom."

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FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED:

Death is certain.

- Ecclesiastes 9:5, "For the living know they shall die."
- Hebrews 9:27, "It is appointed unto men once to die."

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FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED:

There is an appointed time for judgment.

- Acts 17:31, "Inasmuch as he hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by the man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."
- Romans 14:12, "So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God."

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FACTS TO BE REMEMBERED:

► Purpose to life.

- Ecclesiastes 12:13-14, "This is the end of the matter; all hath been heard; Fear God and keep his commandments for this is the whole (duty) of man. For God will bring every work into judgment with every hidden thing, whether it be good or whether it be evil."

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WORDS OF COMFORT FOR FAMILY, FRIENDS AND BRETHREN.

► Dorcas died with hope.

- 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, "But we would not have you ignorant, brethren, concerning them that fall asleep; that ye sorrow not, even as the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also that are fallen asleep in Jesus will God bring with him. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the coming of the Lord, shall in no wise precede them that are fallen asleep. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven, with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first; then we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words."
- Hebrews 6:19 – Hope is the anchor of the soul.

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WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE LIVING ...

► Dorcas died with hope.

- She spent her life "setting her house in order" knowing that she would "die and not live." cf. Isaiah 38:1.
- For the righteous person, the day of death is better than the day of birth. Ecclesiastes 7:1
- Psalms 116:15, "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints."

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LESSON TO THE LIVING.

► We too must prepare. Hebrews 9:27.

- God has done everything a divine being can do to help us get ready. cf. John 3:16.
- Jesus executed that plan and gave Himself to pay the debt of sin. Romans 5:6-8. 1 Peter 2:21-24.
- Sent His spirit to reveal it. John 16:13.
- He invites us to come. Matthew 11:28.
- Hear, believe, repent, confess, be baptized.
- Regardless of moral standing there is no hope short of obedience to the gospel of Christ. 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9.
- Dorcas would tell you to prepare for the appointment with death by setting your house in order.

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CONCLUSION:

- Psalms 116:15, "Precious in the sight of Jehovah is the death of his saints."
- Revelation 14:13, "yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors; and their works do follow them."
- We will miss this grand and gentle lady, who in her own way fought many battles and proved herself to be a worthy soldier of the cross ... but we rejoice that she can at last rest from her labors and the anguish of this physical tabernacle.
- Today we view her future and ours with hope as we look forward to going home, with her and all the redeemed of the ages.