

## Think about it! (15)

"Sex in sight!" That is one of the main differences between yesterday and today; sex has always existed, but whereas yesterday it was more out of view, today it is open to everybody's view. And this is a fact that a lot of people celebrate – those who use sex to sell, those who make a living from the sex business, and progressives, because, they tell us, we've gone from hypocrisy to what's natural, and we've got rid of what in the past was the biggest taboo of them all.

The problem is that the former taboo, sex, has simply been replaced by other taboos, whether we're willing to recognize it or not. What about death, for example? We find it hard to talk about it. It worries us and depresses us. We change the subject. We resort to all sorts of euphemisms and talk about the 'passing' of so-and-so. We say that 'X' has not really died, because they're living on in us – somehow their presence will always be there.

Strange as it may seem, the Bible, that great book that has been so maligned by so many people, as if it were something like 'the mother of all taboos', talks about death in a way that's amazingly natural and clear, free of complexes. And it says, among a lot of other things, "Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27).

Conclusions?

- (1) Death is something inevitable, 'destined' – in other words, 'destined' by God;
- (2) As hard as we try to take refuge in the two exceptions to the rule (according to the Bible): Enoch and Elijah – or in that final generation of human beings when the Lord comes to put an end to the world as we know it – it seems a lot more realistic to take as read the fact that we are going to die;
- (3) We're only going to die once – just as well, right? – I mean, how many times do we want to die?! – yes, but that rules out reincarnation and other religious and philosophical efforts to soften the death-blow;
- (4) There is something after death, and not just 'the other life': "judgment"! – in other words, as if it were not bad enough knowing that we're going to die, on top of that we're told that we're not going to cease to exist, but we're going to have to appear before God and be judged by him.

But it's precisely at that point, rock bottom – death and final judgment – where the message about Jesus starts to make sense and to sound really great. Not that he is some kind of heavenly insurance policy guaranteeing us protection from death and the final judgment; but what he does do for us is take away the sting of death and judgment. "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting? ... But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ" (1st Corinthians 15:55, 57).

"Man is destined to die once, and after that to face judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). But if you believe in Jesus, if you put your trust in him, death and judgment will be nothing more than two stops on the way to heaven!