



“A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one’s birth.” Ecclesiastes 7:1

On the surface, this guy offers one downer after another, doesn’t he? But if we dig a little deeper, we find a profound truth in the Preacher’s words – but only if you are found in Christ! This was originally written on Christmas Day. Maybe a rather odd choice for such a day of celebration, but that is how it “fell out.” But, it is appropriate...

“For unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given: and the government shall be upon His shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, and The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there shall be no end,” (Isaiah 9:6 – 7a). Indeed, Jesus has been given a name that is better, sweeter and more precious than any other name. “...God also hath highly exalted him, and given Him a name which is above every name: that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth; and that every tongue should confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Philippians 2”8 – 10).

If Jesus’ birth was heralded by angelic hosts and is today celebrated world wide by billions of people, then surely the day of His death should be celebrated and counted even better than the day of His birth. You see, the eternal purposes and counsel of God had predetermined His supreme act of redemption. As the climax of this redemptive purpose approached at the Cross of Calvary, Jesus said, “Now My soul is troubled, and what shall I say? “Father save me from this hour? But for this purpose I came to this hour. Father, glorify You name.” (John 12:27 – 28).

It is in His death that His good name is glorified. It is in His death as the Saviour of the world, not His birth, that men are saved! It is in His death that we find hope of our own eternal salvation! And it is in our faith and hope in His resurrection that we too may say of our own approaching death (should Jesus’ tarry His Second Coming), “the day of my death – when I will see Him face to face – is better than my day of birth!”

Selah...

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