



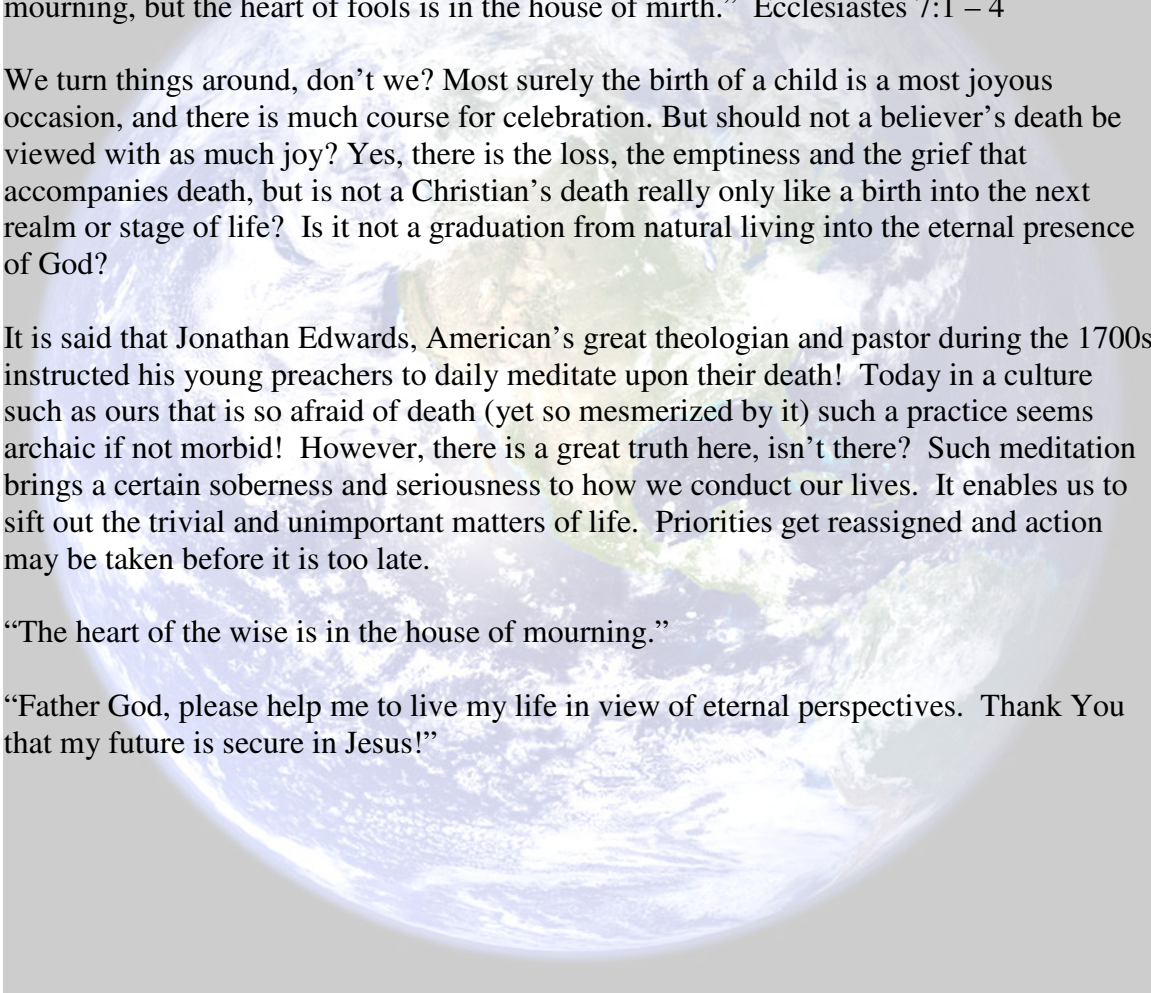
“A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of one’s birth. Better to go to the house of mourning than go to the house of feasting. For that is the end of all men; and the living will take it to heart. Sorrow is better than laughter, by a sad countenance the heart is made better. The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning, but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.” Ecclesiastes 7:1 – 4

We turn things around, don’t we? Most surely the birth of a child is a most joyous occasion, and there is much cause for celebration. But should not a believer’s death be viewed with as much joy? Yes, there is the loss, the emptiness and the grief that accompanies death, but is not a Christian’s death really only like a birth into the next realm or stage of life? Is it not a graduation from natural living into the eternal presence of God?

It is said that Jonathan Edwards, American’s great theologian and pastor during the 1700s instructed his young preachers to daily meditate upon their death! Today in a culture such as ours that is so afraid of death (yet so mesmerized by it) such a practice seems archaic if not morbid! However, there is a great truth here, isn’t there? Such meditation brings a certain soberness and seriousness to how we conduct our lives. It enables us to sift out the trivial and unimportant matters of life. Priorities get reassigned and action may be taken before it is too late.

“The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning.”

“Father God, please help me to live my life in view of eternal perspectives. Thank You that my future is secure in Jesus!”



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