



15 March 2024

## What are you taking with you?

Job is a well-known man from the Bible. We know the phrase “the patience of Job.”

Well-known, but you don’t find many people with that name. I’ve never known a man named Job. In fact, I am not alone in that. Someone figured out that out of the 8 billion people in the world only about 179,000 are named Job.

While Job was a man of deep faith and godly character, many people focus mainly or only on his suffering, being attacked and persecuted by Satan. That may be one reason for there not being too many people named Job around today.

After Job lost all his possessions, children and his health,

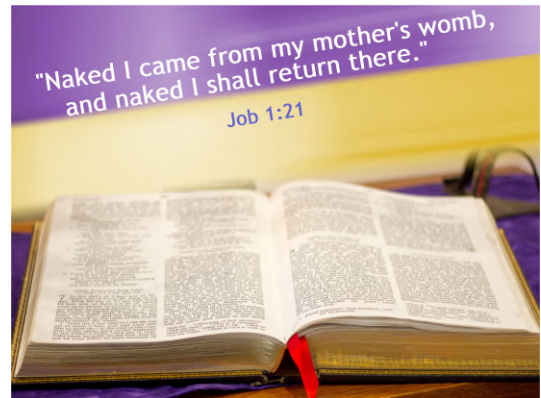
“he fell to the ground and worshiped. He said, ‘Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.’” (1:20-21)

Clearly, the focus should be on Job’s character. He knew his life, his value was not tied up in anything or anyone but God. He knew that when he died he could not take any material things or people with him.

Some people seem to have not learned that. Many people down through history have tried to take all they can with them when they die. In ancient times in simple graves and in grand pyramids. Today some people have been buried with or in their Cadillac, Ferrari or Corvette. When one man’s wife died he placed her body in a big vault and moved in, living there until he died 10 years later. One article about people being buried with their favorite possessions was titled *You Can Take It With You, if the Grave Is Deep Enough*.

“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I shall return there.”

Do we need to say any more?



What are you taking with you when you die? No material things and no one. Most, if not all of us, realize that, at least on some level. But what does that mean? If we really believe that, how will it frame or direct the way we think and live?

We can easily come up with long lists of things we will gladly leave behind, including weak bodies, pain, limited minds, painful memories, death, sorrow, tears and sin.

There are some things we can take with us when we die, even though the Bible does not answer all our questions on that. What can we take?

While we could speculate and imagine a number of things that may seem to make sense to us, we need to answer that question from Scripture.

- Jesus instructed, “store up for yourselves treasures in heaven.” God will reward us for our faithful service here (see Matthew 6). The apostle Paul also instructed us about God evaluating and rewarding our works for Him (see 1 Corinthians 3).
- But today let’s focus mainly on one important thing believers can take with them when they die: the truth and knowledge of God’s Word. We long to see Jesus, our family members and friends in heaven, but we also will have the opportunity to see people in the Bible we have learned about and admired from reading and studying God’s Word. Beyond that, God will make our now limited knowledge complete, that is to the full capability of glorified people. The apostle Paul wrote,

“now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known.” (1 Corinthians 13:12)

Question: are you preparing now by reading, learning and living the Scriptures? *What are you taking with you?*

Pastor Lyle