

## Daily Devotional, May 19, 2020

### 'The End of the Righteous', (Numbers 23:10, NKJV)

*“Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!”* (Numbers 23:10)

These words were spoken by Balaam, a pagan diviner who was hired to curse the children of Israel. But God put His words into the mouth of Balaam, and Israel was blessed instead, in accordance with God’s words to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3.

*“Let me die the death of the righteous.”* All people die eventually, and each is either counted as righteous or unrighteous. Of Abram it is written, *“And he believed in the LORD, and He accounted it to him for righteousness”* (Genesis 15:6). So we see that righteousness is by faith in God, in His work and promises. Those who have faith have one end, and those who do not have another end. Throughout the Bible, we find consistent teachings of both a literal eternal paradise called heaven, and of a literal eternal place of torment called hell. Some theologians, either of the cultish, universalist, or ear-tickling namby-pamby sorts, have tried to erase hell altogether or limit its duration or torment level, to the detriment of those who follow their teachings.

Many people go about the business of laying up stores of earthly possessions and achievements. Some look to make a name for themselves, plastering their names on buildings that all may know what great and generous philanthropists they are. Others find their identity in politics or in their career. But the righteous live by faith, and store up treasures in heaven by doing the works of God from God-glorifying motives. At the end of this life, we all will experience the same thing—physical death. Our memory will live on for a little while, but not for too long in the course of human history. But our end is either spiritual life or spiritual death. God puts words of eternal perspective into the mouth of Balaam—*“And let my end be like his!”* It is a glorious end to be welcomed into the divine presence for all eternity. And so much the more with a commendation from Jesus Himself for a life of faith well-lived, and not squandered in worldly pursuits.

Today let us consider those of faith who have gone before us. Not just the faith heroes of the Bible, but also our beloved family and friends who have surely met a good end, because we know that they believed the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Let us all say in unison, *“Let me die the death of the righteous, And let my end be like his!”* And for all of our days, to that end, let us also resolve to live the life of the righteous.