

The Value of a Soul #6 The Uncertainty of Life

The brevity of life highlights the value of the soul.

A handsome and accomplished young man, eighteen-years-old, in the prime of his life, with good career prospects in front of him, decides to go for a ride in the country on his motorbike. Nobody knows exactly how it happened. His bike went out of control; it left the road; he was catapulted through a barbed-wire fence. His head was separated from his body.

When my boyhood friend set out on that day, he had no idea that this would be his last journey. He didn't realize that within minutes his soul would be required of him. It never occurred to him that he was soon to be projected into eternity.

In James 4:14, James warns us that “. . . you do not now what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away.” Just as the morning fog dissipates with the heat of the rising sun and is seen no more, so is the fragile and transitory nature of human life.

My friend was a clean-living respectable young man, but I was never aware of any spiritual commitment. Perhaps it would have been different had he only known how short his life would be, and how abruptly it would end. In Ecclesiastes 12:1, the wise man said, “Remember also your Creator in the days of your youth. . .” To the selfish rich man in Luke 12:20, God said “You fool! This very night your soul is required of you. . .”

Because life is so uncertain, we should value and provide for the salvation of our souls and the souls of others.