

## A Death That Is Precious in His Sight (Devotional)

Psalm 116:12-19 says,

**12 How can I repay the Lord for all His goodness to me?**

**13 I will lift up the cup of salvation and call on the name of the Lord.**

**14 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people.**

**15 Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.**

**16 O Lord, truly I am your servant; I am your servant, the son of your maidservant; You have freed me from my chains.**

**17 I will sacrifice a thank offering to You and call on the name of the Lord.**

**18 I will fulfill my vows to the Lord in the presence of all His people,**

**19 in the courts of the house of the Lord – in Your midst, O Jerusalem. Praise the Lord.**

It is interesting that there ever would have arisen a group such as the Sadducees who denied not only the existence of angels, but of the afterlife as well. Why else would God have inspired the writer of this Psalm to say, **"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints"** if there was nothing more than this existence? But please make note of one important factor here: God is not happy when just anybody dies. God is only happy when one of His **saints** dies.

Death is the penalty of sin. **"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"** writes the Apostle Paul in Romans 6:23. Jesus took on that penalty of death by carrying our sins to the cross. As the Apostle John says in 1 John 2:2, **"Jesus is the way our sins are taken away – the way all people may have their sins taken away."**

Jesus not only takes away our sins, He also is the Author of eternal life. **"And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him,"** is what the writer of Hebrews says in Hebrews 5:9. When God made this world and all of His original creation, there was no death. But when man sinned, death came into the scene. Our sins separate us from God and **"It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment"** (Hebrews 9:27). God is definitely not happy when those who have rejected Him and His Son pass away, because he knows they will remain forever lost. As Ezekiel 18:23 says, **"Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked,' says the Lord God, 'and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?'"** **"Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever"** says Hebrews 13:8, and just as God desired that no man die in his sins at the time of Ezekiel, so, too, is it His desire today that all should come to repentance: **"The Lord is not slack concerning His promise, as some count slackness; but is longsuffering toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."** Only in the death of one of His own will the Lord be found rejoicing!