

# The Old Paths

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## “The Death Of Ronald Reagan”

Jarrod Jacobs

As we are well aware, the 40th President of the United States, Ronald Reagan, has passed from this life. Some of our dear readers may remember him from his “Hollywood days” as an actor and as a spokesman for GE. Others perhaps remember him when he was a governor in California, or as the President. Now, enough time has passed that perhaps some of our dear readers have no memory of him at all, and only know him through the accounts that others tell of him.

The purpose of this writing is not to praise a man, but to glean some eternal lessons from his extended illness and death. Solomon said in the long ago, “*It is better to go to the house of mourning, than to go to the house of feasting: for that is the end of all men; and the living will lay it to his heart*” (Ecc. 7:2). Last week has been a week of mourning in this country for the death of the 40th President. Therefore, let us “lay to our heart” some needed spiritual lessons from this very public man.

### **No Man Can Hide From The Physical Consequences Of Sin.**

After Adam and Eve sinned, God stated various consequences

for their sin. Among them, God said that death and various hardships would be on earth as a result of their sin (Gen. 3:16-19). We now suffer with sickness, disease, old age, and death because of this pronouncement so long ago. The apostle Paul noted that our “*outward man*” was perishing (II Cor. 4:16). Certainly, this is evident. This is one of the physical consequences of sin! David stated that “*the days of our years*” last about 70-80 years, and are “*soon cut off*” (Ps. 90:10). Ronald Reagan, through a very famous man, a governor, a President, and a well-respected speaker, could not avoid the ravages of old age! He could not escape death, and neither will any of us.

The Holy Spirit made it crystal clear that none will escape physical death when He revealed, “*And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment*” (Heb. 9:27). Even Job understood that death is no respecter of persons. In Job 3, as Job was enduring pain and suffering, he made the comment of how he wished he had died in childbirth, and been with “*kings, counselors of the earth ... princes ... the wicked ... prisoners ... the small and great ... the servant ... the master*” (Job 3:12-19). All are alike in death.

Regardless if one is a king (a President!), or a lowly slave, death comes to all. Mr. Reagan could not escape disease and old age, or death. Neither can we! (See: Ecc. 2:16, 6:6b)

### **When Facing Death, Only One Thing Is Important.**

Seeing that men are dying creatures, the most important thing we can do is prepare ourselves for death and eternity. Yet, this is something that is neglected by many people. If nothing else, as we are touched by the death of Ronald Reagan, as well as deaths taking place this day all over the world, we need to be reminded that death is coming to all. Solomon wrote, “*the living know that they shall die...*” (Ecc. 9:5).

Seeing that death will come to all, what have you done, dear one, to prepare for eternity? Do you believe in Christ (Jn. 8:24)? Have you repented of your sins (Lk. 13:3)? Have you confessed your faith in Christ (Matt. 10:32)? Have you been baptized for the remission of sins (Acts 2:38)? If you have done those things, are you now living a faithful life to Christ (I Cor. 15:58)?

Mr. Reagan’s race is run, and he can do nothing to change his eternal destiny, for better or worse. Yet, as you read this article, if you have changes you need to make in your life to prepare for eternity, this is the time to do it (II Cor. 6:2)!

### **Conclusion**

While much of the world seems to be touched by the death of Mr. Reagan, and many have closely watched his funeral, let us also remember that Ronald Reagan was not the only one to die on June 5. Furthermore, many more have died in the week since his death. Life and death continue on this earth; the cycle continues. Please examine your life and see what changes need to be made. Make those changes today, for tomorrow may be too late (Jas. 4:13-17).

## **"It's No One's Business What I Wear!" (#1)**

Jarrod Jacobs

*[Editor's Note: This article begins a series of articles I intend to write in "The Old Paths" for the next few months, Lord willing. I do not plan to answer all questions in one bulletin, but I want to address various aspects of immodesty since this is such a great problem in our society. --JJ]*

**W**hen one begins to study with people (even Christians) about dressing immodestly, the statement "It's no one's business what I wear!" will come up. Does the Bible have anything to say about immodesty? Hopefully, by the end of our series, we will be able to come to a common understanding about immodest dress.

### **What Should My Attitude Be Toward Immodest Dress?**

Christians are a people of action. They are not a people of reaction! We act on what has been said in the Bible. We do not react to external things in life. When we understand this, we will come a long way in our study of immodest dress. Another thing that we need to remember is that if we truly focus our lives on God, and the cross, every decision we make will be based on what the Bible says (Jn. 6:67-68; Col. 3:17; I Pet. 4:11). Our focus on this subject, and every subject should be, "What saith the Scripture?" (Romans 4:3), not the fashions of the day. Is this your attitude?

### **Am I To Live By Biblical**

### **Authority At All Times?**

Let us let the Bible answer this question. "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him" (Col. 3:17). When Paul, by Inspiration, penned "whatsoever..." it shows us that everything is included in the statement that he is going to make. He then says that whatsoever you do, "in word or deed." Does He mean only things done or said "in church?" If so, he never stated it! Let us learn that he is talking about whatever may be done or said in all aspects of our life. He then says, "do all." Once again, this shows the all-inclusiveness of the command given. "In" in this verse means "in connection with," not "inside of." Sometimes it means "inside of," but not in this verse. Paul then explains that we are to do all in the "name of the Lord." What does the word "name" mean? Solomon says that it means one's reputation (Prov. 22:1; Ecc. 7:1). Now, to bring all of our definitions together, Paul is saying, "Whatever you say, and whatever you do must be done in connection with the reputation of Jesus." Would Jesus try to justify immodest dress by saying that it was no one's business? Would Jesus say that some things are not governed by Bible authority? Of course, not!

### **"What I Do Does Not Effect Anyone Else!"**

Many will agree with this statement. We live in an age where "do what you want to do," and "what I do is no one's business" are prevalent statements. What does God say about this attitude? "For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself" (Rom. 14:7). "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you, That whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matt. 5:27-28). Do these passages sound like God would agree with the person that says "what I do is no one's business"? Contrary to popular thinking, our actions, dress, speech, and attitude effect the way others think about us, and about God. In fact, Jesus teaches that we can cause others to sin based on our dress (or lack thereof). (Read also: Matt. 5:13-16)

Let us consider these points seriously. Lord willing, in the next few months, we will continue this study. Please feel free to talk to me about questions you might have. Let us all think seriously, pray fervently, and study the Bible intently so that we might be the kind of people God would have us to be. Let us live "soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world" (Titus 2:12).

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Preacher/Editor: Jarrod Jacobs

Phone: (270) 683-5386

Website address: [www.southside-churchofchrist.com](http://www.southside-churchofchrist.com) (Updated weekly!)