

RECOLLECTION

SIGNIFICANCE AND PROMISE OF ETERNAL LIFE

let us remember these biblical quotes (Ez 18:32 and Ez 33:11) - God does not take pleasure in the death of anyone....Lord tells us, why should you die. (looks contradicting....)

வாழ்வை அளிக்கும் வல்லவா, தாழ்ந்த என்னுள்ளமே...நானே வானின்று இறங்கி வந்த உயிருள்ள உணவு...

BUT...WE DIE....

We sing “Eternal Rest Grant unto them O Lord....” In Tamil “இறந்தோர் வாழ்வு ஒளி பெறுக...”

- In the Cemetery - I witnessed this quote - “இன்று நான் நாளை நீ” - Voice from the Cemetery - All those who are taking rest - What would be the tone? It depends....May be Pleading....exhortation....warning...with kind heart....with sense of missing....reminder....unsatisfaction....(rich man and Lazarus)

- Voice from outside the cemetery (should have to be uttered by everyone)- “இன்று நீ நாளை நான்” - What would be the tone? It depends....May be envious....consolation....with sense of gratitude....realization of nothingness....deprivation (may be emotional)....aloofness(left alone or orphaned)....understanding the reality....(இரவல் தந்தவன் கேட்கின்றான் அதை இல்லை என்றால் அவன் விடுவானா? உறவை சொல்லி அழுவதனாலே உயிரை மீண்டும் தருவானா, கூக்குரலாலே கிடைக்காது, இது கோர்ட்டுக்கு போனால் ஜெயிக்காது அந்த கோட்டையில் நுழைந்தால் திரும்பாது...)

(நித்தம் கோடி சுகங்கள் தேடி கண்கள் மூடி அலைகின்றோம், பாவங்களை மேலும் மேலும் சேர்த்துக்கொண்டே போகின்றோம்...மனிதன் என்னும் வேடம் போட்டு மிருகமாக வாழ்கின்றோம்...தீர்ப்பு ஒன்று இருப்பதை மறந்து தீமைகளை செய்கின்றோம்...காலம் மீண்டும் திரும்பாதே பாதை மாறி போகாதே...)

- We wish the deceased RIP - What does it mean?

-Indifference - ok...gone...

-Thank God, the person is no more....

-Please, for heaven sake, don't ever come back from the tomb

-Rest in Peace

- We follow so many rituals to bury the dead...we have so many prayers to be prayed...and so on....in the religious life we have few formalities...(for the archives and so on...)

Besides all these, Do we all really die? Yes of course, we all die..we have to die...no excuses...no exceptions...(so all of us will get a chance to wish RIP....it is assured).

Why do we die? We have so many answers anthropologically, Philosophically, Theologically, spiritually. (due to sin we die, misusing of our freedom sin enters the world -Sir 15:17, Deut 30:19-20.

Reality is very clear, but then....

RIP is undeniable fact, Universal truth...Some consider RIP is eternal life, enjoying eternal bliss, and being in eternal abode. But Actually RIP (so called eternal life) is possible, guaranteed, assured, rewarded, awarded only when we exercise and experience LIP on this earth, and let others exercise and experience and enjoy the LIP. (புண்ணியம்)

LIP is the preparation for the RIP. How to experience the LIP -be reminded of Voice from the cemetery and voice from outside the cemetery.

There should be paradigm shift in our mind. Shift (Pasch) should be from cease to worry about RIP, begin to enjoy LIP. If LIP is exercised and experienced, RIP will be awarded and rewarded by default, no recommendations whatsoever.

RIP Is all about HHPL- Heaven, Hell, Purgatory and Limbo which is known as "Eschatology". Let us stop worrying about Eschatology - Where will I go after death?

Heaven, Purgatory or hell. In fact, the purpose of eschatology is not to threaten us rather it is call to all of us..(not how to die- rather how to prepare to die)

- to live with faith in God's promises (Mt 28:20, Heb 13:5, Is 43:2-4, Jn 14:18)
- To grow in holiness -Mt 5:48 -Be perfect as your heavenly father...
- To practice charity and compassion - Mic 6:8
- To remain watchful and be ready for the Lord - Mt 25:13

As per (common understanding without proper sense) eschatology and as per the catechism classes, we would be rewarded any one of these. But the T&C is LIP - Terms and conditions apply - T&C is nothing but LIP. How to experience the LIP?

Start exercising the LIP...(Jn 3:16-whoever believes in Him (believing should be shown in action-Jam 2:17), What should be the action (Jn 2:5 - whatever he tells you), Jn 17:3- knowing the true God....follow him and become ardent disciple of Jesus Christ, 1 Jn 5:11-12 - Eternal life is in his son....(Jesus wants all of us to experience LIP which is eternal life as we live in this world, in turn we will be rewarded with eternal life, so called RIP after death. (Rom 8:29-30)

LIP is the entry ticket into KOG. Actually LIP is KOG. Jesus never promised KOG after death, Rather He declares...Mk 1:15-the KOG is at hand, repent and believe in the Gospel, Mt 4:17 - Repent, for the KOG is at hand, Lk 17:20-21 - KOG is not coming with signs to be observed...for behold the KOG is within you (KOG values - Gal 5:22-24, Jam 3-Hold your tongue), Rom 14:17- KOG is righteousness, ,peace and joy in the HS.

Jn 3:3 - Unless one is born again, he cannot see the KOG - (shift from RIP to LIP), Mt 5-7 - Teaches the attitudes and behaviors expected of kingdom people: Humility, Purity of Heart, Mercy, Peacemaking, Trust in God, Mt 12:28 - If I cast out demons by the spirit of God, then the KOG has come upon you, Rev 11:15 - the Kingdom of this world has become the kingdom of the our Lord and of His Christ.

LIP is..

- Mt 25:21 - நன்று நன்று...
- Mk 12:29-31

-Eph 4:26

-Lord's prayer

-1 Thes 5:16

-உலகமெல்லாம் எனக்காதாயம் என வாழ்ந்தவர் மகிழ்ந்ததில்லை...

-2 Cor 11:1 - Be imitators of me as I am of Christ

-Sir 25:1

-Mt 5:23

-Rom 7:14-15,19 - acknowledgement

-Is 55:3,6

-Phil 4:8

LIP is nothing but, in practical life, making a paradigm shift from....to....

- From INSTANTANEOUS CULTURE (No business with God) - To WAIT FOR THE VOICE OF THE SPIRIT, WAITING PATIENTLY AS OUR LORD (Lk 1:68-79), (2 Pet 3:9),

- From INFLUENTIAL CULTURE (Mostly we fall prey to negatives -We are also very good at influencing others negatively -Beware of Positive and Negative) - To RAISING ABOVE OR NEUTRAL OR STANDING FOR JUSTICE OR IMPARTIAL OR GOSPEL VALUES BASED CONVICTION CULTURE. (Jn 5:41-46) (1 cor 3:3-9)

- From DISCLAIMER CULTURE -To RESPONSIBLE STEWARD OR READINESS TO FACE THE UPS AND DOWNS FOR GOD (1 Cor 10:31) or ACKNOWLEDGEMENT CULTURE (Phil 4:13), Judgement scene.

-From FORTUNATE CULTURE - To HUMBLE OR SUBMISSIVE OR ACCEPTANCE CULTURE (Jesus incarnated not to call the righteous but the sinners, sick need the physician, seek for the lost sheep), St. Paul - Apostle of the Gentiles, All those who received healing from Jesus....

-From FEEDBACK SEEKING OR SUCCESS ORIENTED CULTURE - To TOTUS TUUS OR TOTAL SURRENDER CULTURE - Jesus never asked for feedback, rather he appreciated the people who had strong faith in the Lord....Rom 8:31,35 - who can separate us from the Love of Christ...Phil 2:1-11 - obediece, our blessed mother....

-From EXPECTATION CULTURE - To READINESS CULTURE TO EXERCISE AND EXPERIENCE WILL OF GOD CULTURE

This Shift is LIP - If LIP is lived - Eternal life is promised here and now....thus RIP will be rewarded.

LIP - 2 Pet 3:13-14 - Looking forward for new heaven and new earth where righteousness reign....Be diligent that you may be found in peace, without spot and blameless. We are redeemed by the Lord's patience - Salvation -1752 - salvation of souls is the highest law of the church.

மனிதன் என்பவன் தெய்வமாகலாம்....