

A DAY CERTAIN

“It is appointed unto men” Hebrews 9:27

RECENT EVENTS

As I write this, over the last couple of days, two well-known celebrities have passed. One was a singer and the other an actor-comedienne. They each experienced long lives even by today's standards. One of them lived well into his eighties, the other into his nineties. That notwithstanding, they will still be missed and grieved by their families and close friends. Death is never easy for loved ones left to come to terms with it.

PAST EVENTS

Although they occurred a couple of days apart, when I heard the news of these two deaths, it took me back in time to another day almost 30 years ago. I was on vacation. We had travelled to the Outer Banks on the coast of North Carolina. I have been blessed to visit a lot of places and seen much natural beauty in my travels but the Outer Banks ranks up there with any of them. One day while there, we took a break from the sun and fun to rest a bit. I turned on the television and learned that on that day, May 16, 1990, two entertainment icons had died. One was Sammy Davis Jr., the singer and actor who was a household name for decades. He was 64 when he died. The other was Jim Henson, the legendary creator of the Muppets. He was the man whose life's work brought us Kermit the Frog, Ernie and Miss Piggy among others. He was only 53 at the time of his passing.

THE AFTERMATH

They both were showered with accolades by their fans and admirers in the aftermath of their deaths. Effusive praise poured in, posthumous awards and honors were bestowed. As time passed however, mentions of them faded from the media and except for those who felt the loss personally, they became distant memories. Life goes on doesn't it?

THAT CERTAIN DAY

Each of us will come to a similar day; the day that brings an end of our time on this earth as we now experience it. And though it may not make the national news, for those who truly love us, tears will be shed, words will be said, rituals will be held. Those loved ones will have to come to terms with the loss they feel. But for the one they grieve an appointment awaits: an appointment with the Almighty. There we will individually give an accounting of the deeds we did in our body. All of us will have fallen grievously short of God's standard. There will be only one way to escape the judgment that our sins justly elicit. That is the grace of God provided through the judgment requiring sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. The caveat is that grace must be received during this life.

If you haven't done that please do. If you have, rejoice because your fate is certain on that certain day.