"The House of Mourning"

Ecclesiastes 7:2-4 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. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better. 4 The heart of the wise is in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools is in the house of mirth.

I. The Counsel of God in the House of Mourning: (Ecc. 7)

A. Matter of THREE HOUSES

1. Three houses are mentioned here.
   → The House of Mourning → The House of Feasting → The House of Mirth

2. The one is said outright to be better visited than another...

Ecclesiastes 7:2 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.

3. By degree, one has to say that Scripturally the one House is superior to the others.

B. Matter of the HEART not the head

Three times in three verses the Holy Spirit refers to the Heart not the Head! This is a matter of the heart!

C. Matter of HEALING

Ecclesiastes 7:2-3 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. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter: for by the sadness of the countenance the heart is made better.

II. The Conduct of Christ in the House of Mourning: (Jn. 11)

In John chapter 11, the Lord Jesus attends the funeral of Lazarus

A. His Tenderness: vs 5 “Now Jesus loved Martha, and her sister, and Lazarus.”

B. His Intent: vs. 15 “for your sakes...to the intent ye may believe”

C. His Tears: vs. 35 “Jesus wept.”

See: Heb. 5: 14-15 “Our Great High Priest” Who is touched with the feeling of our infirmity Who was tempted in all points such as we...

D. His Triumph: vs. 23 “they brother shall live again” vs. 25 “I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live.”

Hebrews 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man.

III. The Confrontation in the House of Mourning: (Ecc. 7:2)

The Scripture said: “...the living will lay it to heart.”

A. Mortality: the Brevity of Life

James 4:14 Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vaniseth away.

B. Eternity: Before Us

Hebrews 9:27-28 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: 28 So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation.

C. Personality: Biblically declared, the Lord Jesus Christ

1 Peter 3:18 For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit:

John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.

Mourning is not something we enjoy. It is something that we will draw back from, but friends we must understand tonight that it is the BETTER that we learn to visit the house of mourning! It is there we find the hearts of the wise, it is there we can lay to our hearts the TRUTH about death and He who conquered it! It is there that our hearts will be made BETTER!