

Death Of An 'American Icon'

This past week America and maybe even a good portion of the world mourned the passing of Dick Clark, an "American Icon". Countless news reports and special television programming gave witness to the fact that this man did some pretty great things in his lifetime in the entertainment business. Memories, accolades and tears were shared by the many who have been given opportunities to have their own portion of time in the "spotlight" through the work and influences of this giant of the music industry.

I remember growing up watching "American Bandstand" and even then, imagining how "cool" it would be to be on that show or even to be one of the entertainers who were lucky enough to be performing there. Hundreds of thousands of young folks (and probably as many parents) could be found all across the country in front of their t.v. sets dancing like the teens on the show and singing along with the popular bands and singers when Dick Clark was on. There is no doubt that Dick Clark has touched multiple millions of people in his lifetime and he will be remembered for a long time yet to come. The vast majority will remember him as a "good person", and their assumption will be that he will be in heaven with all other "good people".

Now the bad news part..... According to God's Holy Word, "good people" don't all go to heaven. Dick Clark, like you and I and all mankind, will have to stand before the judgment seat of Christ, (2 Cor. 5:10). He will stand there accountable for all things he did and didn't do in this life. He will have to answer, just like you and I will, some tough questions when facing the God of the Bible in judgment. Did you ever read and study Mybook, (2 Tim. 2:15)? If not, why not?... Did you ever accept my Son as Lord of your life, (Rom. 14:8-9; 2 Cor. 5:15)? If not, why not?... Did you ever share My Son's gospel with anyone, (Matt. 28:18-20; Mk.16:15-16)? If not, why not?... Did you ever obey My Son's gospel, (2 Thess. 1:7-10)? If not, why not?... You understand now why I said that this is the bad news part. You see, it really doesn't matter how great we or others think we are, or that we may be 'good people' in this life. Obedience to God's word and the words of Christ will be the criteria for judgment (Jn. 12:48; Rev. 22:14).

Now I don't pretend to know what Dick Clark's religious attitude or affiliation was. I have no knowledge of whether he ever obeyed the gospel of Christ or whether he ever came to a "knowledge of the truth", (1 Tim. 2:3-4). My effort is not to judge him at all, but to simply point out that our perspective of greatness in this country is flawed, when considering what is really important in life. Yes, Dick Clark opened up a "world of opportunity" for so many people and gave them the "jump start" they needed to succeed in their chosen careers. But what did he actually lead them to? The entertainment world is, by and large, so very far removed from the life that the Bible teaches is pleasing to God. It is filled with the desire to be at the "top of the list", the best, the most revered, the most popular and it serves the hedonistic, self-serving, self-pleasing, view of life. And it is those desires that leads people away, very far away, from the God of heaven and the gospel of the Son of His love.

Hell, for all eternity, will be filled with the souls of countless individuals who were, from a worldly perspective, "great" in this life. Friend, please don't be deceived by fame and fortune and the greatness of this world. (See also Matt. 18:4; Matt 20:26)