

Numbers, Life and Death

by Bill Crews

43, 54, 85, 50, 63, 57, 71, 65, 65, 68, 25, 93, 37, 47, 49, 58, 64, 16, 19, 91 and 81. Can you guess the source or significance of this collection of numbers? Each one is very much the number of a person. Each one represents the number of birthdays celebrated by an individual. Each one describes in years the life span of a real human being. They came from the obituary section of a Monday morning paper. These were the ages of the deceased. From 16 to 93! **An average of 57!** I grant that that average is below the life expectancies of both men and women, then and now, but they demonstrate well the fact that anyone can die at any age.

In view of the brevity and uncertainty of life, the certainty and finality of death, and the duration and nature of eternity (one heaven and one hell, forever), shouldn't you start thinking about the condition and destiny of your soul — **NOW?** You are concerned about your mortal body; shouldn't you be even more concerned about your immortal soul? You are concerned about your physical life; shouldn't you be more concerned about your spiritual life? You are concerned about material things; shouldn't you be more concerned about spiritual things? You are concerned about time; shouldn't you be more concerned about eternity?

Every day that we live among men, we are asked, "How are you?" or "How are you feeling?" Hardly anyone asks, "How's your soul?" We are body-conscious; we have physical health-awareness. But we are being foolish and careless if we are not primarily concerned about the spiritual condition of our never-ending souls. Have you been saved from your sins? Are you a Christian? Are you faithful to God? Do you have the approval of God? Do you enjoy the life and peace and hope that are in Christ? In the words of a grand old song:

*"A charge to keep I have,
A God to glorify;
A never-dying soul to save,
And fit it for the sky."*

365201