

DEATH AND DVING Living

Death's Certainty and It's Tragedy

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- Resurrection

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- What Happens Right After You Die?

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Prophecies of the "Anointed One"

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- He shall be wise, high and lifted up
- He was born of a virgin

- For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
- 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,
- ⁵ and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.
- Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep.
- ⁷ Then he appeared to James, then to all the apostles.
- 8 Last of all, as to one untimely born, he appeared also to me.

- And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.
- ³ His appearance was like lightning, and his clothing white as snow.
- 4 And for fear of him the guards trembled and became like dead men.
- ⁵ But the angel said to the women, "Do not be afraid, for I know that you seek Jesus who was crucified.
- ⁶ He is not here, for he has risen, as he said. Come, see the place where he lay.
- ⁷ Then go quickly and tell his disciples that he has risen from the dead, and behold, he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him. See, I have told you."

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- 21 And the Lord God made for Adam and for his wife garments of skins and clothed them.
- Then the Lord God said, "Behold, the man has become like one of us in knowing good and evil. Now, lest he reach out his hand and take also of the tree of life and eat, and live forever "

29 "Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!"

- 14 ... if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is in vain and your faith is in vain.
- We are even found to be misrepresenting God, because we testified about God that he raised Christ, whom he did not raise if it is true that the dead are not raised.
- 17 ... And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins.
- 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.
- ¹⁹ If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied.

"We all know that something is eternal. And it ain't houses and it ain't names, and it ain't earth, and it ain't even the stars ... everybody knows in their bones that something is eternal, and that something has to do with human beings. All the greatest people ever lived have been telling us that for five thousand years and yet you'd be surprised how people are always losing hold of it. There's something way down deep that's eternal about every human being."

- Thornton Wilder, *Our Town*

- ²⁰ But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep.
- ²¹ For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead.
- ²² For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.
- ²³ But each in his own order: Christ the firstfruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.
- Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power.
- ²⁵ For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet.
- ²⁶ The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

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- But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?"
- ³⁶ You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.
- And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain.
- ³⁸ But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.
- For not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish.
- ⁴⁰ There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another.
- There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.

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- 42 So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.
- ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.
- 44 It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.
- ⁴⁵ Thus it is written, "The first man Adam became a living being"; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit.
- ⁴⁶ But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual.

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- ⁴⁷ The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.
- 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.
- ⁴⁹ Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.
- ⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

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- Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,
- in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.
- For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality.
- When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written:
 - "Death is swallowed up in victory."
- "O death, where is your victory?
 O death, where is your sting?"

- ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
- But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

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Unanswered Questions

When will this happen?

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*But concerning that day and hour no one knows, not even the angels of heaven, nor the Son, but the Father only."

- When will this happen?
- What will I look like?

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- When will this happen?
- What will I look like?
- Will I have extra powers?
- Will I recognize others? My family?
- Will I still have to cook meals?

Still to Come

What happens right after I die?

Still to Come

- What happens right after I die?
- What happens after the resurrection?

So ... therefore ... what now?

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- 1. Be steadfast and immovable.
- 2. Be about the work of the Lord.

So ... therefore ... what now?

- 18 ... "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.
- Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,
- 20 teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age."

So ... therefore ... what now?

Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

- 1. Be steadfast and immovable.
- 2. Be about the work of the Lord.
- 3. Be confident in the knowledge of your future.

"Often when looking at things in life we may speak of the "30,000-foot view." This gives us a broader look at things. But what if we went higher? God operates in eternity – eternity past to eternity future. Within that endless continuum, He created time. It has a beginning and an end. Within time He has created my life, also with a beginning and an end. The moment I am in right now (the challenge I am facing, the battle, the pain) is only a blip on the radar of eternity. As we choose to look at life's trials from God's perspective and not our human perspective, suddenly the insurmountable mountain becomes a blip. What is amazing is that all our tomorrows have been written by the Lord.

We do not know what is going to happen, but He does. He has the WHOLE picture. Because He is a loving, faithful, sovereign God, we can trust that His plan is not only good, but perfect. What tomorrow brings will be delivered through our fallen world by our Almighty Father who uses all things for His glory and our good (Rom 8:28). When we meditate on this glorious truth, our loads are lifted, and we are filled with His peace that surpasses all understanding. This is summed up well in the words from a song at church this morning, "I am His, and He is Mine." Period. That is all we need."

So ... therefore ... what now?

- ¹⁶ So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day.
- ¹⁷ For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison,
- ¹⁸ as we look not to the things that are seen but to the things that are unseen. For the things that are seen are transient, but the things that are unseen are eternal.