



Every human being will die someday. We do not like to think about this fact but we all must face death at some point. For the Christian, death is relocating someone from this life to the next. The Apostle Paul suffered greatly in his life. He writes:

"For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, 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" (2 Cor. 4:17-18).

Paul even said "to die is gain" (Phil. 1:25-26) and "but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8). For many, death is a great unknown and the fear of death can be overwhelming. This fear does not leave a person with a feeling of peace. This is bad news. How did Paul have some much confidence?

The Gospel

The Gospel is good news. It is not sort of good news. It is not mediocre news. It really is good news. Knowing with certainty you will be in heaven is good news. Good news means you are at peace with God. You are the blessed man who has had their sins forgiven (Rom 4:6-8).

What happens when we die?

Hebrews 9:27

“And just as it is destined for people to die once, and after this comes judgment,”

When you die, the Bible says you will approach the throne of judgement where the book of your life will be open (Rev 20:12-15). Everyone who has ever lived is found guilty and has a debt they cannot pay themselves. Our good deeds do not outweigh our bad. God is the standard, not humans, so scales always tip in favor of God. Sin produces debt (Rom. 6:23), that is bad news.

The good news is Jesus completely paid your debt on the cross. He did not partially pay it. He fully paid it. It was a “once for all” sacrifice (Hebrews 10:10). In John 19: 28-30, Jesus final words were “It is finished, ” is Telelestai and means “paid in full.” Our good works do nothing to contribute to our salvation. It is by grace alone through faith alone. The difference between a Christian and non-Christian is not that one can do good and the other cannot. The difference is one is saved and the other is not.

Ephesians 2:8-10

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God—not by works, so that no one can boast. For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.”

Before we are saved, we are a creature of God. Once we place our faith in Christ, we become children of God. God looks at us differently. Just like you look at your kids differently than a stranger.

John 1:12

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name,

As a Christ follower, you have no fear approaching the throne of judgement. The book of your life will be open but your debt has been paid in full. We approach the throne of our Father with boldness. Not because we are good, because He is good and paid our debt for us.

Hebrews 4:16-Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy and find grace for help at the time of our need.

Romans 3:23- For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus,

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the gracious gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Rom 4:5 But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,

We have peace with God because we have repented from our rebellion and accepted the free gift of forgiveness and eternal life. Peace with God is good news!

Rom 5:1 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,

Romans 10:9 - that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

What about Good Works?

We are saved by grace through faith alone (Ephesians 2:8-10) but the faith is never alone. We do good works to show that we are saved. Paul writes about knowing we are saved and James writes about showing we are saved. People should look at our lives and see a difference.

Do you want peace with God? Here is a sample Prayer:

Dear God I come before you and ask that you forgive me of my sins.- I accept your gift of forgiveness and give my life to you now- I accept you as my Lord and Savior. Thank you God for loving me- and forgiving me.- In Jesus name I pray amen.

What if I don't know what to say?

The greatest prayer is "Help." God already knows what you need:

Romans 8:26

Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words.

We pray directly to the Father because we have direct access to the Father through the work of Jesus

1 Tim 2:5

“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus”

God is no longer in the Temple behind the curtain where priests have to mediate between us.

After Christ paid for our sins, the curtain was torn (Matt. 27:51) and the Holy Spirit dwells or tabernacles in us. We are a royal priesthood (1 Pet 2:9-12).

Faith is Greek word *Pistos* G3982; It means to “trust in.” We have good reasons to trust in him.

Hebrews 11:1 – “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen”

God is faithful (i.e. trustworthy). We place our trust (faith) in Christ) because He is trustworthy and we are assured of our eternal life based on His work on the cross for those that believe

John 3:16-21

“For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but

have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil. Everyone who does evil hates the light, and will not come into the light for fear that their deeds will be exposed. But whoever lives by the truth comes into the light, so that it may be seen plainly that what they have done has been done in the sight of God."

The moment you place your trust in Christ you are justified. Notice that the word "Justified" is in the past tense. He has already justified you. This is a declaration that you are righteous in His eyes now.

Romans 5:1

"Therefore, since we have been justified through faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,..."

Romans 1:16

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes: first to the Jew, then to the Gentile.”

Acts 16:31

“They replied, ‘Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved—you and your household.’”

John 6:37-40

“All those the Father gives me will come to me, and whoever comes to me I will never drive away. For I have come down from heaven not to do my will but to do the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all those he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. For my Father’s will is that everyone who looks to the Son and believes in him shall have eternal life, and I will raise them up at the last day.”

1 John 4:13-16

“This is how we know that we live in him and he in us: He has given us of his Spirit. And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent his Son to be the Savior of the world. If anyone acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God lives in them and they in God. And so, we know and rely on the love God has for us. God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them.”

John 3:3 “Jesus replied, ‘Very truly I tell you, no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again’”

The old person is gone. You are a new creation with the Holy Spirit living inside you. Once you accept Christ, you are born again.

2 Corinthians 5:17

“Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old has gone, the new is here!”

More Verses:

Luke 23:40-43

“But the other criminal rebuked him. ‘Don’t you fear God,’ he said, ‘since you are under the same sentence?’

We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong.'

Then he said, 'Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.'

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."

1 John 5:11-13

"And this is the testimony: God has given us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. Whoever has the Son has life; whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life.

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life."

Romans 10:13/Joel 2:32

"Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Genesis 15:6

"Abraham believed the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness."

Acts 2:37-42

“When the people heard this, they were cut to the heart and said to Peter and the other apostles, ‘Brothers, what shall we do?’

Peter replied, ‘Repent and be baptized, every one of you, in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. And you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is for you and your children and for all who are far off—for all whom the Lord our God will call.’

With many other words he warned them; and he pleaded with them, ‘Save yourselves from this corrupt generation.’ Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.”