

The Death of a Christian
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Introduction: The Christian has a very different view of life than the world.

- A. The Christian's greatest goal is to be pleasing to God. **(Heb 11:6)**
 - 1. This creates a very different set of priorities.
 - 2. What is failure to the world is success to the Christian. **(2 Cor 6:4-10)**
- B. The ultimate motivation of the Christian is to one day to be with God.
 - 1. Just like the reunion of long separated loved ones, we look to one day see the face of Jesus. **(1 Pt 1:6-9)**
 - 2. The challenge for the Christian is to keep this vision renewed in his heart. **(1 Jn 3:1-3)**

I. The Christian knows the certainty of the life after death

- A. How can I know things that I cannot see? **(Heb 11:3, 27)**
 - 1. This comes from a trust in God.
 - 2. Does this trust have any proof? Is faith and reason mutually exclusive?
- B. This is why Jesus came! **(Heb 2:14-15)**
 - 1. God became man! Why?
 - 2. One of Satan's major weapons was man's fear of death.
 - 3. Jesus was to replace fear with a clear picture of what death means.
- C. Jesus made his resurrection as the focal point to prove all that he claimed.
 - 1. This was the ultimate sign for all men. **(Jn 2:18-22)**
 - 2. Jesus and the prophets clearly predicted the manner of His death and the time of His resurrection.
 - 3. His enemies tried to use all the power at their disposal to prevent the resurrection.
 - 4. All of these things plus numerous eyewitnesses give abundant proof for any who want to know! **(1 Cor 15:3-8)**
- D. These truths motivate the Christian to "go against the grain" in how they view this life. **(2 Cor 5:14-17)**
 - 1. What happens when we lose this vision?
 - 2. How many people have forgone advantages of this world because of their love of one day being with God? **(Mt 19:9-12)**

II. The Christian knows the certainty of the world to come

- A. We know what will happen at our physical death. **(Lk 16:22-23)**
 - 1. Those who are righteous are escorted by the angels of God to a place of paradise.
 - 2. Those who are unprepared likely have a terrifying death and a worse realization in the world to come.
- B. We know what will happen at our resurrection.
 - 1. We will be raised in a physical body like Jesus'. **(2 Cor 4:13-14)**
 - 2. That body will then be changed to a spiritual body. **(1 Cor 15:50-55)**
 - 3. There will also be an angel escort as we prepare to meet God.

(Mk 13:26-27)

4. The world as we have seen it will be destroyed. **(2 Pt 3:10-11)**
- C. We have a taste of what heaven will be like! **(Rev 21:1-5)**
 1. Can you imagine the blessings that the creator of this universe has for us? No, you cannot! **(1 Cor 2:9; Eph 3:20-21)**
 2. This is why the love of God is so powerful. We do not deserve any of this, but we serve a God who describes himself as the source of all love. **(1 Jn 4:8-11)**
- D. We will also experience a great reunion.
 1. We will continue to be who we are after our death.
 2. There was recognition of Moses and Elijah on the mount of transfiguration. **(Mt 17:3-4)**
 3. We do not go out of existence! We continue to live joyfully as a child of God.
 4. This makes death a blessed finish line to eternal fellowship with God.

III. The Powerful Death of a Christian

- A. We need to see others finish the race successfully. **(2 Cor 4:16-18)**
 1. The life of a sacrificing faith is needed to be seen by others.
 2. Consider the example of some recent funerals. The world can see the power of a living faith in those who live victoriously in suffering. **(2 Cor 12:9-10)**
 3. I have also seen others throw away their faith because of wanting this life to be easier. (Ex. Marriage, Divorce and remarriage)
- B. Do you hear voices in your head of those who have gone before?
 1. What a blessing for a child to see a parent die in faith!
 2. The example and the words of the righteous will help you. **(Prov 1:8-10)**
 3. What example are you setting?
- C. We live in a lost world that has given up on Christianity because most have never seen a living faith.
 1. Never underestimate how God can use you even though you appear weak and insignificant to the world.
 2. Your example may in time open the hearts of others. **(1 Pt 2:11-12)**
- D. Do I have this confidence in God?
 1. You will find yourself joyfully taking the more difficult path. **(Mt 7:13-14)**
 2. You will find yourself often thinking of the world to come. **(1 Pt 1:13)**

Conclusion: Be honest, are you hastening the day of the Lord?

- A. Will your death lead to hopeless end or an endless hope?
- B. We cannot know how to live until we know how to die.