

# Preparation For Death

**God's Word, the Christian Bible, tells us that physical death is as much a part of our present life as laughter and weeping.**

**Ecclesiastes 3:1-8** [New King James] *“To everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck what is planted; a time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; a time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; a time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; a time to gain, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to throw away; a time to tear, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; a time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace.”*

**God's Word also tells us that death is not something to be feared when we know the very reason for this short physical life.**

**Deuteronomy 32:28-29** [New King James] *“For they are a nation void of counsel, nor is there any understanding in them. Oh, that they were wise, that they understood this, that they would consider their latter end!”*

**Death is a subject that we as human beings are reluctant to consider, yet it is wise to consider the end of this physical life and to prepare for this event that no human being can avoid.**

**Ecclesiastes 9:3-10** [New King James] *“This is an evil in all that is done under the sun: that one thing happens to all. Truly the hearts of the sons of men are full of evil; madness is in their hearts while they live, and after that they go to the dead. But for him who is joined to all the living there is hope, for a living dog is better than a dead lion. For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, for the memory of them is forgotten. Also their love, their hatred, and their envy have now perished; nevermore will they have a share in anything done under the sun. Go, eat your bread with joy, and drink your wine with a merry heart; for God has already accepted your works. Let your garments always be white, and let your head lack no oil. Live joyfully with the wife whom you love all the days of your vain life which He has given you under the sun, all your days of vanity; for that is your portion in life, and in the labour which you perform under the sun. Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might; for there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave where you are going.”*

**Now, while we are among the living, is the time to prepare for our death, for the days of our death could be many, [Ecclesiastes 11:7-8].**

**The overall approach that the Word of God shows us is that “if we know how to die, then we know how to live now.”**

**Psalms 39:4-7, 12-13** [King James] *“LORD, make me to know mine end, and the measure of my days, what it is; that I may know how frail I am. Behold, thou hast made my days as an handbreadth; and mine age is as nothing before thee: verily every man at his best state is altogether vanity. Selah. Surely every man walketh in a vain shew: surely they are disquieted in vain: he heapeth up riches, and knoweth not who shall gather them. And now, Lord, what wait I for? my hope is in thee.” ... “Hear my prayer, O LORD, and give ear unto my cry; hold not thy peace at my tears: for I am a stranger with thee, and a sojourner, as all my fathers were. O spare me, that I may recover strength, before I go hence, and be no more.”*

**A prayer of King David as he was facing death, and was meditating on the limitations that this short physical life offers us.**

**Psalms 90:12** [New King James] *“So teach us to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”*

**Now is the time to seek Godly wisdom as revealed in His Word, the Christian Bible.**

**Isaiah 38:18-19** [Amplified Bible] *“For Sheol [the place of the dead] cannot confess and reach out the hand to You, death cannot praise or rejoice in You, they that go down to the pit cannot hope for Your faithfulness [to Your promises, their probation is at an end, their destiny is sealed]. The living, he shall thank and praise You, as I do this day, the father shall make known to the children Your faithfulness and Your truth.”*

**Only the living can confess their sins and seek forgiveness.**

**Only the living can thank God and praise Him.**

**Only the living can have hope in the future, for the time of preparation for the future ends at death.**

**Only the living can teach future generations about their Creator God and the reason for physical life.**

**Luke 12:37-40** [New King James] *“Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them. And if he should come in the second watch, or come in the third watch, and find them so, blessed are those servants. But know this, that if the master of the house had known what hour the thief would come, he would have watched and not allowed his house to be broken into. Therefore you also be ready, for the Son of Man is coming at an hour you do not expect.”*

**This physical life is a time when we should be actively preparing for the Second Coming of our Saviour and Master Jesus Christ.**

**John 9:4-5** [New King James] *“I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the light of the world.”*

We as true Christians should be following this example of our Master Jesus Christ **now** while we are still in the land of the living.

**James 4:13-17** [New King James] *“Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go to such and such a city, spend a year there, buy and sell, and make a profit’; whereas you do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour that appears for a little time and then vanishes away. Instead you ought to say, ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live and do this or that.’ But now you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”*

**To fail to do the good we know that we should is sin that if not repented of will lead to eternal death, from which there is no resurrection.**

**Romans 12:1-2** [NIV] *“Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God’s mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God, this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God’s will is, his good, pleasing and perfect will.”*

**To show our gratitude to God for what He has done for all humanity through His Son Jesus Christ, we should offer our lives as a “living sacrifice” to God so that through the active presence of the Holy Spirit we may be re-educated to become more like Jesus Christ.**

**Romans 14:7-9** [New King James] *“For none of us lives to himself, and no one dies to himself. For if we live, we live to the Lord; and if we die, we die to the Lord. Therefore, whether we live or die, we are the Lord’s. For to this end Christ died and rose and lived again, that He might be Lord of both the dead and the living.”*

**To die “in the Lord” we must “live in the Lord” now.**

**Philippians 1:20-23** [New King James] *“according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labour; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.”*

Because Paul was allowing God to use him to bring others to know and worship Him, that to die and be freed from the painful persecution his preaching of Jesus Christ as our only Saviour, had brought him a far better state to be in.

**Death is to gain if we are allowing Jesus Christ to live His life again on earth through us.**

**Hebrews 13:14-16** [New King James] *“For here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come. Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name. But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased.”*

**There is nothing eternal about the present physical life that we are living but we are seeking eternal life, for which we should constantly thank and praise God.**

Also we must **not** neglect to share with others the good news about this future eternal life with others even if it means personal sacrifice.

**1 Peter 1:13-19** [New King James] *“Therefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and rest your hope fully upon the grace that is to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; as obedient children, not conforming yourselves to the former lusts, as in your ignorance; but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, because it is written, ‘Be holy, for I am holy.’ And if you call on the Father, who without partiality judges according to each one’s work, **conduct yourselves throughout the time of your stay here in fear**; knowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.”*

**Reverential fear of God should be a controlling motive of our lives in spiritual and moral matters, not merely the fear of His power and righteous retribution, but a wholesome dread of displeasing Him. A deep respectful fear which banishes the terror that shrinks from His presence.**

**Romans 8:15** [New King James] *“For you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, ‘Abba, Father.’”*

A deep respectful fear which influences the disposition and attitude of one whose circumstances are guided by trust in God, through the active indwelling of the Holy Spirit, [**Acts 9:31**].

**Romans 3:18** [New King James] *“There is no fear of God before their eyes.”*

**The vivid description of today’s society in verses 10-17 is the result of the lack of this deep respectful fear of the One and only true Creator God, [2 Corinthians 7:1; Ephesians 5:21].**

**1 Peter 3:2, 15-17** [New King James] *“when they observe your chaste conduct accompanied by fear.” ... “But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defence to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear; having a good conscience, that when they defame you as evildoers, those who revile your good conduct in Christ may be ashamed. For it is better, if it is the will of God, to suffer for doing good than for doing evil.”*

**This deep respectful fear of God expressed in our lives is part of the way we witness to other people who lack this fear of the Creator God, to their personal detriment.**

**Even if this witness may bring ridicule and suffering to our lives.**

**2 Samuel 12:22-23** [New King James] *“And he said, ‘While the child was alive, I fasted and wept; for I said, “Who can tell whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?” But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.’”*

**King David knew that while he was living he was but waiting to join child who had died. The child who was the result of King David’s sin of murder and adultery with Bathsheba.**

**Psalms 23:4** [New King James] *“Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.”*

God will be with us and through our death, a promise made to the righteous person.

**Psalms 31:1-5** [New King James] *“In You, O LORD, I put my trust; let me never be ashamed; deliver me in Your righteousness. Bow down Your ear to me, deliver me speedily; be my rock of refuge, a fortress of defence to save me. For You are my rock and my fortress; therefore, for Your name’s sake, lead me and guide me. Pull me out of the net which they have secretly laid for me, for You are my strength. Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.”*

When we have lived a life trusting in and seeking to know and do the will of our Creator God, we can have great confidence as we face physical death, [**Psalms 49:15; Proverbs 14:32; Acts 7:59-60**].

**Ecclesiastes 8:8** [Amplified Bible] *“There is no man who has power over the spirit to retain the breath of life. Neither has he power over the day of death...”*

**A very good reason for not delaying our personal preparation for death, by building a relationship with the God who does have power over our death and the future life we have the other side of physical death.**

**Ecclesiastes 5:15** [New King James] *“As he came from his mother’s womb, naked shall he return, to go as he came; and he shall take nothing from his labour which he may carry away in his hand.”*

As we can take nothing physical with us through death it is wise to follow the words of Jesus Christ, as He talks about life and death.

**Matthew 6:31-33** [New King James] *“Therefore do not worry, saying, ‘What shall we eat?’ or ‘What shall we drink?’ or ‘What shall we wear?’ For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”*

**The accumulation of physical things should not be a high priority in our lives.**

**Luke 12:15-21** [New King James] *“And He said to them, ‘Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one’s life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses.’ Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: ‘The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. And he thought within himself, saying, “What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops?” 18 So he said, “I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. And I will say to my soul, ‘Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry.’” But God said to him, “Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided?” So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.’”*

**True lasting riches that we can take through death are Godlike characteristics.**

**Galatians 5:22-25** [New King James] *“But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control. Against such there is no law. And those who*

*are Christ's have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit."*

These "fruits" of a life that is being led by the Holy Spirit, will be eternally recorded in our "human spirit" that will at death return to the Creator God, [Ecclesiastes 12:6-7; Acts 7:59].

This "human spirit" will be given a new eternal spirit body in which to dwell at the Second Coming of Jesus Christ, [1 Corinthians 15:35, 42-49].

Death is likened in God's Word, the Christian Bible, as a sleep and we know that we awake from sleep to a new day.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13-18** [New King James] *"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words."*

**This simple knowledge can be of great comfort to all who have lost those whom they love.**

**Hebrews 2:14-15** [New King James] *"Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil, and release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage."*

**Jesus Christ has the power over death through His resurrection from physical death, and His personal sacrifice for all humans.**

**John 3:16-18** [New King James] *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved. He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."*

**Our faith and trust in Jesus Christ is the basis of all our hope for life beyond physical death.**

**Hebrews 11:1-16** [New King James] *"Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. For by it the elders obtained a good testimony. By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God, so that the things which are seen were not made of things which are visible. By faith Abel offered to God a more excellent sacrifice than Cain, through which he obtained witness that he was righteous, God testifying of his gifts; and through it he being dead still speaks. By faith Enoch was taken away so that he did not see death, 'and was not found, because God had taken him'; for before he was taken he had this testimony, that he pleased God. But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him. By faith Noah, being divinely warned of things not yet seen, moved with godly fear, prepared an ark for the saving of his household, by which he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness which is according to faith. By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God. By faith Sarah herself also received strength to conceive seed, and she bore a child when she was past the age, because she judged Him faithful who had promised. Therefore from one man, and him as good as dead, were born as many as the stars of the sky in multitude, innumerable as the sand which is by the seashore. **These all died in***

*faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. **But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country.** Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.”*

**Every true Christian’s real home is on the other side of death.**

**Revelation 21:2-7** [New King James] *“Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.’ Then He who sat on the throne said, ‘Behold, I make all things new.’ And He said to me, ‘Write, for these words are true and faithful.’ And He said to me, ‘It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son.’”*

**This is the wonderful new world tomorrow, after Jesus Christ’s Second Coming, the Kingdom of God on earth that will be founded on love, love for God and love for every other human being.**

**Revelation 21:8** [New King James] *“But the cowardly, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”*

**Such people would never fit into or enjoy being part of such a new world so God in His mercy will put them out of their misery and pain forever.**

I encourage you to prepare, starting now, for your death, so that you will **not** be among these people whom God will have to destroy so the new world will **not** be polluted by their lifestyle.

**Revelation 20:14-15** [NIV] *“Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.”*

**Physical death will then be a thing of the past.**