

## Life and Death

By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, RI, 2018

1. Everything, including death, has its time. *“To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven: A time to be born, And a time to die”* (Ecclesiastes 3:1-2).
2. Life is short in duration. *“The days of our lives are seventy years; And if by reason of strength they are eighty years, Yet their boast is only labor and sorrow; For it is soon cut off, and we fly away”* (Psalm 90:10).
3. Death entered the world as a result of sin. *“Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned”* (Romans 5:12).
4. The human spirit continues after death. *““Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life. Most assuredly, I say to you, the hour is coming, and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God; and those who hear will live. For as the Father has life in Himself, so He has granted the Son to have life in Himself, and has given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”* (John 5:24-29).
5. Death is a shadow, and divine help is offered to those who live, and those who grieve, even while believers who die physically are ushered home to heaven. *“The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want. He makes me to lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside the still waters. He restores my soul; He leads me in the paths of righteousness For His name’s sake. 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. You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies;*

- You anoint my head with oil; My cup runs over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the LORD Forever”* (Psalm 23:1-6).
6. The death of God’s saints is precious in His sight, and believers enjoy eternity with Him from the moment of passing. *“Precious in the sight of the LORD Is the death of His saints”* (Psalm 116:15). *“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord”* (2 Corinthians 5:8).
  7. True believers have certainty of being with the Lord, because they have a reservation in heaven which cannot be taken away. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while, if need be, you have been grieved by various trials, that the genuineness of your faith, being much more precious than gold that perishes, though it is tested by fire, may be found to praise, honor, and glory at the revelation of Jesus Christ, whom having not seen you love. Though now you do not see Him, yet believing, you rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, receiving the end of your faith—the salvation of your souls”* (1 Peter 1:3-9).
  8. Until the very last breath, everyone has opportunity to be with Jesus Christ our God in Paradise, simply by trusting in Him in faith. The Bible does not teach universalism, but it does teach that God grants us every opportunity. It is possible that in some cases, people make final peace with God on the deathbed, even unknown to any man, but to God only. *“And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise””* (Luke 23:43).

9. Jesus Christ has already won the victory over death once for all, through His death and resurrection. *“So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” “O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ”* (1 Corinthians 15:54-56).
10. God promises comfort for those who are grieving now. *“Blessed are those who mourn, For they shall be comforted”* (Matthew 5:4). *“God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble”* (Psalm 46:1).
11. God promises us continual comfort, and we are called to comfort others after the same manner, with sympathy, love, and compassion. *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God”* (2 Corinthians 1:3-4).
12. Now, a question that you must answer. *“Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?””* (John 11:25-26).

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