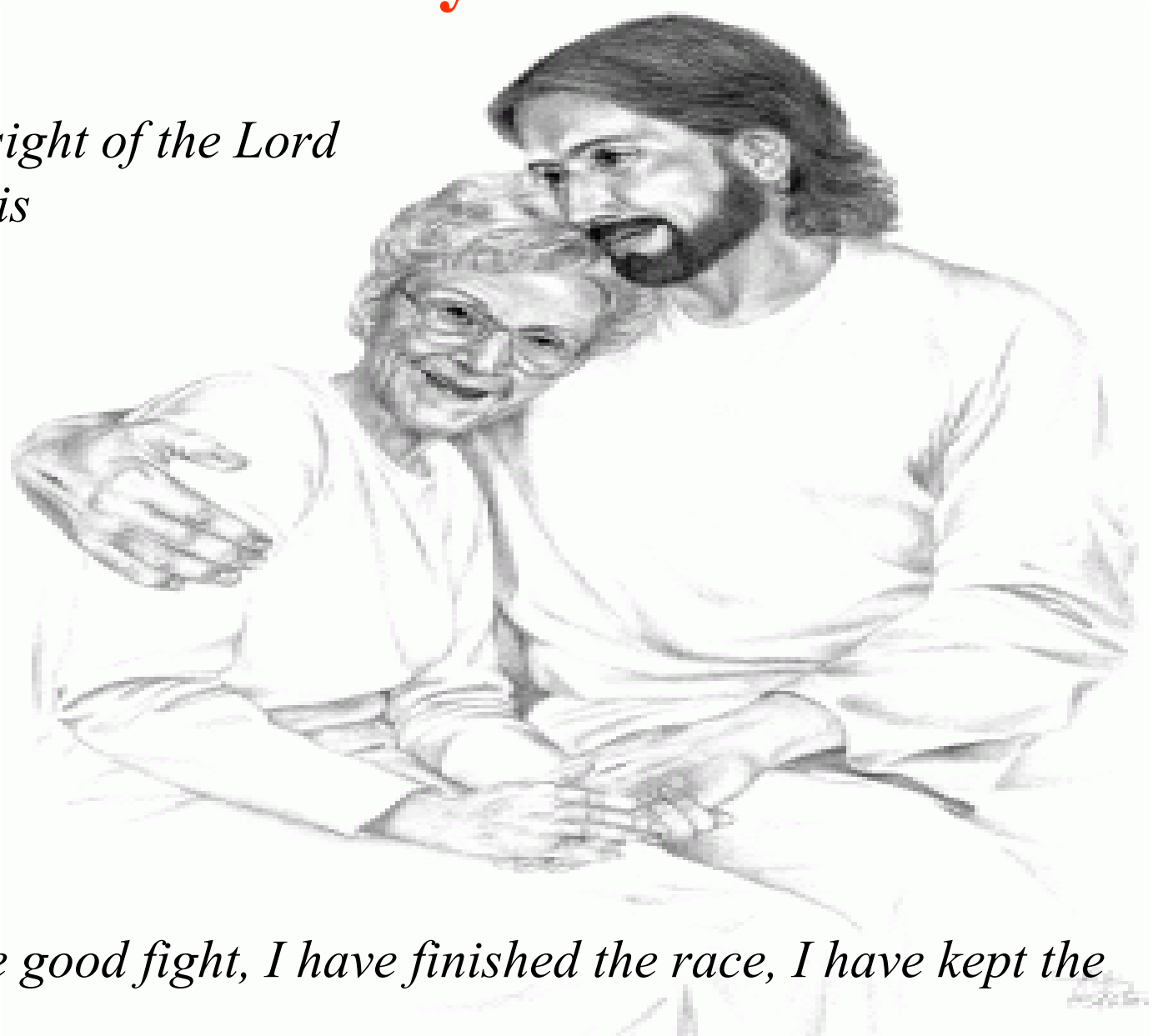


Nancy.

Psalm 116:15.

*Precious in the sight of the Lord
is the death of his
faithful servants*



2 Timothy 4:7.

*I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the
faith.*

Death man's final appointment on earth.

Death is not a popular topic of conversation and people in general avoid having to deal with it and either embrace the lie that everyone goes to heaven because God is too loving to send anyone to hell or they come up with another myth called re-incarnation.

However Jesus himself spoke much about hell.

Hebrews 9:27 states clearly

*And as it is appointed unto men
once to die, but after
this the judgment.*



Man's average lifespan.

One of man's greatest quests through medical science is to prolong life.

i. **Up to the flood** (1656 years) Over 900 years
Genesis 5

ii. **After the flood:** Reduced to 120 years
Genesis 6:3.

Then the Lord said, My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.

i. **Subsequent average:** 70-80 years
Psalms 90:10.

Our days may come to seventy years, or eighty, if our strength endures; yet the best of them are but trouble and sorrow, for they quickly pass, and we fly away.

ii. **In the Millennium man's lifespan is increased.**
Isaiah 65:20.

Never again will there be in it an infant who lives but a few days, or an old man who does not live out his years; the one who dies at a hundred will be thought a mere child; the one who fails to reach a hundred will be considered accursed.

Death.

➤ God himself ordained for man to die.

Genesis 3:22-24.

And the Lord God said, The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever. So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.

➤ God instituted death as a blessing to grant redemption from this body that is under sin's curse.

Romans 7:23-25.

What a wretched man I am! Who will rescue me from this body that is subject to death? Thanks be to God, who delivers me through Jesus Christ our Lord!

Romans 8:23.

we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption to sonship, the redemption of our bodies.



Death.

- **It is not good for fallen man to live too long.**

Genesis 6:1-3.

Then the Lord said, My Spirit will not contend with humans forever, for they are mortal; their days will be a hundred and twenty years.

- **You may think it gives a person more time to repent, but**

76% of Christians decided to follow Jesus Christ before the age 16.

85% of Christians decided to follow Jesus Christ before the age 21.

- **The older you get the harder your heart gets.**

Ecclesiastes 12:1

Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them.



Man's perspective on death.

Ecclesiastes 9:2-4.

All share a common destiny the righteous and the wicked, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, those who offer sacrifices and those who do not.

As it is with the good, so with the sinful; as it is with those who take oaths, so with those who are afraid to take them.

This is the evil in everything that happens under the sun: The same destiny overtakes all. The hearts of people, moreover, are full of evil and there is madness in their hearts while they live, and afterward they join the dead. Anyone who is among the living has hope even a live dog is better off than a dead lion!



Paul's perspective on death.

Philippians 1:20-25.

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed, but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labour for me.

Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.



The righteous dying.

Isaiah 57:1-2.

The righteous perish, and no one takes it to heart; the devout are taken away, and no one understands that the righteous are taken away to be spared from evil. Those who walk uprightly enter into peace; they find rest as they lie in death.



God's concern is spiritual death.

Luke 12:4-9.

I tell you, my friends, do not be afraid of those who kill the body and after that can do no more. But I will show you whom you should fear: Fear him who, after your body has been killed, has authority to throw you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear him. Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? Yet not one of them is forgotten by God. Indeed, the very hairs of your head are all numbered. Don't be afraid; you are worth more than many sparrows.

None of us can say that we will be alive tomorrow.

James 4:13-16.

Now listen, you who say, Today or tomorrow we will go to this or that city, spend a year there, carry on business and make money. Why, you do not even know what will happen tomorrow. What is your life? You are a mist that appears for a little while and then vanishes. Instead, you ought to say, If it is the Lord's will, we will live and do this or that. As it is, you boast in your arrogant schemes. All such boasting is evil.

Aren't we all Children of God.

- ❑ We are not automatically children of God, we have to be Born into God's family.

John 8:44.

Jesus said of the Pharisees...

“You are of your Father the Devil”

2 Corinthians 6:17,18.

Come out from them and be separate, says the Lord. Touch no unclean thing, and I will receive you and I will be a Father to you and you will be my sons and daughters says the Lord Almighty.



What is needed to get into heaven?

The world says that good people go to heaven but this is what God says in His Word.

Romans 3:10-12.

“There is no one righteous, not even one; there is no one who understands; there is no one who seeks God. All have turned away, they have together become worthless; there is no one who does good, not even one.”

Luke 18:9-14.

To some who were confident of their own righteousness and looked down on everyone else, Jesus told this parable: Two men went up to the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood by himself and prayed: God, I thank you that I am not like other people robbers, evildoers, adulterers or even like this tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all I get. But the tax collector stood at a distance. He would not even look up to heaven, but beat his breast and said, God, have mercy on me, a sinner. I tell you that this man, rather than the other, went home justified before God. For all those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted.

What is needed to get into heaven?

You have to be born again.

John 3:1-5.

There was a man of the Pharisees named Nicodemus, a ruler of the Jews.

This man came to Jesus by night and said to Him, “Rabbi, we know that you are a teacher come from God; for no one can do these signs that you do except God is with him.”

Jesus answered and said to him,

*“Most assuredly, I say to you, **unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God.**”*

Nicodemus said to Him, “How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother’s womb and be born?”

Jesus answered,

*“**Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the Kingdom of God.**”*

What is needed to get into heaven?

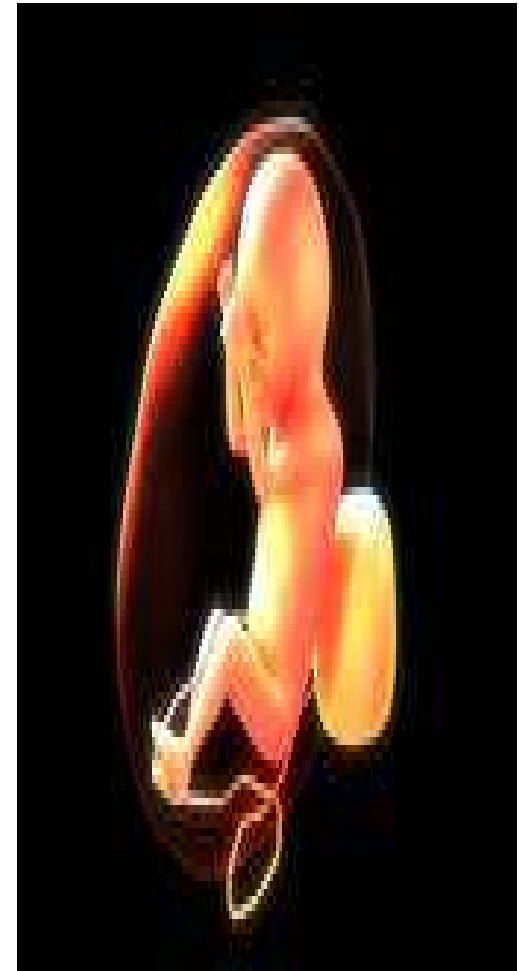
Born of water?

Contrary to what some teach, **born of water is not a reference to “Water Baptism,”**

Jesus in this context was answering Nicodemus regarding natural birth from a mother’s womb, where the unborn child is surrounded by water, and when the water breaks the child is born.

1 Peter 1:23.

*Having been **born again**, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the Word of God which lives and abides forever.*



Why do we have to be “Born Again.”

Because man is spiritually dead as a result of disobedience.

Genesis 2:17.

But you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.

Ephesians 2:1-5.

*As for you, you were **dead in your transgressions** and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world.....God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.*

Colossians 2:13.

*When you were **dead in your sins** and uncircumcision of you flesh, God made you alive with Christ. He forgave us all our sins.....*

The evidence of being “Born Again”

You will have victory over “Habitual sin”.

The Power of God and the exercise of our self control will enable us to do what Jesus told the woman brought before him, who was taken in the act of adultery ie: “Go and leave your life of sin”

1 John 3:1-10.

How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called the “Children of God” ...

*when He appears we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. **EVERYONE** who has this hope within him purifies himself, just as he is pure...*

***No one** who lives in him keeps on sinning. **No one** who continues to sin has either seen him or known him....*

No one** who is born of God will continue to sin, because God’s seed remains in him; **he cannot go on sinning**, because he has been born of God. **THIS IS HOW WE KNOW WHO THE CHILDREN OF GOD ARE.... Anyone who does not do what is right is not a child of God; nor is anyone who does not love his brother.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope.

For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words.



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