



Challenging Christians to Pray

Prayergram[®]

March-April 2024



What Comes After Death?

“O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?”

After the last breath, a person is gone forever and is never coming back. **As the prophet Isaiah wrote, “Cease ye from man, whose breath is in his nostrils: for wherein is he to be accounted of?” (Isaiah 2:22)** He will no longer have a schedule and all his activities will cease. He talks no more, walks no more, sees no more and hears no more. He is gone forever and never coming back. Thus, man is faced with the challenge of a lifetime as how to overcome death and keep him alive in perpetuity. There is no successful antidote to cure death or to escape from its clutches; it is unavoidable to all humankind. Death does not respect anyone on the basis of nationality, fame, education, riches, or any other status quo. The world’s mighty men of success, persons of great persuasion and power have all been simply swept off their feet by death. We delude ourselves into believing that we can actually escape or avoid death by being smart, clever and witty.



Death is an unavoidable reality for all humanity, no matter how hard we try to stay alive. Where are those who boasted of their great achievements and conquests? What a humiliating thought for all those who conducted themselves as though they would live forever? Think about those profiteers, whose only goal in life was to amass great wealth by any means possible, overriding their conscious state of truth, justice and fair-play. They were so entrenched in the idea of earthly success and totally ignored life after death. **Every breath we take is a gift from God, and it should be treated as such with gratitude.**



Death is the final arbiter of life and it removes every lively activity from men forever. At the moment of death, people realize their utter helplessness and hopelessness and their bodies lie motionless and lifeless. At the point of death, men are brought under the realization that they are not better than any body else. Death is the equalizer and it dissipates all human differences; it treats all men equal. It puts the final nail on the coffin of caste, creed, color, and culture we value so dearly. **Furthermore, in death, man is brought before the bar of justice to see his pride, arrogance, jealousy, and selfishness as he considers himself as “master of his own fate.”** Death is not something we think as often as we should. By virtue, death is the last thing on our mind as we go on conducting our business as usual. Do you realize that there are millions of people the world over who do not care about life beyond the grave? Friend, Jesus, our Lord looked beyond the cross and the grave. He lived with full resurrection glory in view. Many in life do not serve the purpose of God; they only serve their own interest by any means possible. Such men are like “beasts that perish for want of wisdom.”



People in general are so busy spending all their energy, time, and resources, only preparing for this life, while making no preparation for the life to come. In today’s culture, we can buy anything our heart desires, so why should we hope for or prepare for tomorrow’s heaven? One cannot buy his way into heaven; he needs to approach his maker through utter faith in Him for passage to a place of eternal rest. It is important to keep in mind that this world is not our portion but only a passage. The believer is a “traveler, not a settler.” **An elderly Quaker at eighty-two said it this way, “I am going to live until I die and then I am going to live**

forever.” That’s the Christian hope and don’t let anyone tell you otherwise! To a believer, the real meaning of life lies beyond the grave. In our temporal and foolish wisdom, we do not calculate the horrendous cost of not preparing ourselves for the ultimate journey of life. People have been warned to change the course of their journey here on earth and make necessary adjustments in order to save themselves from eternal separation from God. It’s our Father’s desire that none should perish, but all should come to know Him through His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.



Those who do not worship the God of heaven are prone to worship something or someone else. It is no wonder we have a citizenry that is being led astray by false teaching and living. Let the Lord free us from the tyranny of our own ego! **Those who take the thought of heaven lightly, and laugh foolishly on this matter now, won’t be laughing on the day of reckoning.** Friend, where do you stand with God on the final Day of Judgment, after your last breath? Man is, in reality, like an automobile in which its electrical system is disconnected. He has all the components, but they do not function. It seems man has an inbred desire for immortality and he yearns for the day that he can be like God. He is frustrated because he has not been able to rise above God and as a result, he is constantly at odds with his creator, God Almighty.



Death is not a man-made event. It is part of God’s plan from the beginning of time. Man has no control over death, and I am sure it has become very frustrating to him. Death is inevitable part of life; dying is just as real as living. As human beings, we like to control things because it gives us power, and power makes us powerful, we think. The only way we can avoid the drudgery of death is simply placing our trust in Christ Jesus, who conquered death on the cross of Calvary. By doing so, He gave us the privilege to make due preparation for the ultimate journey of life. The Holy Bible gives us our sailing instructions. In Christ, we have a Captain who knows the patterns of a raging sea, and has never lost a ship. **“All is safe when Jesus is in the boat.” There is no sign of fear or anxiety on His face, as He guides us through the “eye” of the storm. After the last breath on earth, our body is destroyed, but the eternal spirit goes to heaven, that’s if we’ve accepted Jesus as Savior and Lord. “Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it” (Eccl.12:7). Once our sins are forgiven here on earth, our spirit remains in heaven with the Lord, not for a season, but forever.**

Heaven: Christians Eternal Home

There are many theories, speculations, and philosophies about heaven and what they mean to us in terms of our faith. Trying to find answers to all these vital questions can be troubling and mind-boggling. **“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverb 14:12). Enter you in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction...” (Matthew 7:13) God himself has provided a way for all to enter into everlasting life.** The Lord of heaven who humbled Himself and came into this world in the person of the Lord Jesus Christ, and by His death on the cross we have received forgiveness for our sins. No other person in the entire world has the power to forgive sins, except the Lord Jesus Christ, the true and eternal Son of God.



Why is it only Jesus can save sinners? Consider this now—apart from Jesus, is there any other person in the whole world who came to seek and save sinners? Is there any other person on earth who loved humanity and gave Himself to die on their behalf, taking their punishment as Jesus did? Is there anyone else who in the annals of history that lived a perfectly holy and pure life as Jesus lived? Is there any other person who conquered death and sin and rose from the grave went up to heaven visibly and did not die again? Is there any other person in history who promised that He will come again to receive all those who place their trust in Him? **Remember my friend; the one who has the power to condemn us now stands ready to forgive. That is splendidly astounding, wouldn’t you say?**



There are many among us who claim to have all the answers but true answers are found only in the nail-scarred hands of Jesus, our Lord. Do not be deceived.” Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name

under heaven, given among men, whereby we must be saved” (Acts 4:12). If you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, by the transforming power of His blood that was shed on the Cross of Calvary for you, your sins will be forgiven; therefore, after the last breath on earth, when we close our eyes here, we will open them in heaven. **That’s the promise for you and me!** God, in His infinite wisdom, looks at the heart of man. He knows the frailties of our lives. Jesus calls us to come to Him, and when we come to Him, He will in no wise cast us out (John 6:37). Our salvation is an assured thing and His invitation is open to all. So as believers, death should be welcomed as an entrance to a Blessed Life with God in heaven.



May I share with you some riveting thoughts from those who have gone before us! If you go to the burial sight of **Daniel Webster**, America’s foremost orator you will find the following words written on his tombstone, “Lord, I believe, help thou mine unbelief.” When the great Chemist **Michael Faraday** was on his deathbed, some journalists questioned him as to his speculations concerning the soul and death, “**Speculations,**” said the dying Faraday in astonishment, “**I know nothing about speculations. I am resting on absolute certitude.**” **The dying Frances Willard exclaimed, “How beautiful it is to be with God.” Charles Kingsley was heard to whisper, “How beautiful God is.” When D. L. Moody was leaving this world for the other, he said to his wife, “Do you hear that singing?” Then he said, “Earth is receding, heaven is opening, and Jesus is calling,” and he was gone. That is beautiful! No gnashing of teeth; or any mystic dream but joy and complete peace! That is the Christian way to leave this world for heaven! It is not fantasy or human sophistry, or allegory or mere reverie, but sublime reality, and Jesus Christ is the greatest REALITY in the world. Doesn’t that make us homesick for heaven, of course, it does!**

Jesus, our Savior had met, confronted and defeated the last enemy—death. Everything is glorious now because He has paid the ultimate price for the redemption of mankind. This is the beginning of the New Creation—an unforgettable chapter in human history has now written and open for all those who put their trust in Him. **Dear friends, won’t you say “YES” to Jesus Christ, the purest source of love that had ever lived!**

--- Matthew Skariah

Voice from the past

“Now, I have no desire for wealth, position and honor. Nor do I desire even heaven. But I need Him who has made my heart heaven. His infinite love has expelled the love of all other things. The heart is the throne of the King of Kings. The capital of heaven is the heart where that King reigns.”

-- Sadhu Sundar Singh

Cambridge University Scholar and a servant of Jesus with a ‘bleeding feet’

Culture Watch by Matthew Skariah

Success vs. Faithfulness

One of the fastest growing businesses in Canada profiled several ‘success stories’ in their magazine. A salesman was asked when he would consider himself a success. His answer was, “When you see a Porsche 911 in my driveway.” The question of earthly success has become very appealing to many who promote the ‘good life’ over ‘godly life.’ There is nothing wrong with success if it’s kept in its proper perspective. The Lord did not call us to be successful, but faithful to His will and purpose. **E. Stanley Jones** showed much wisdom when he wrote, “I do not have to succeed. I have only to be true to the highest I know--success or failures are in the hands of God.” **Jewish Scholar Martin Buber** was profound when he said, “God has many names but success is not one of them.”



In our popular culture, many seem to be successful as far as earthly things are concerned. Christians need to be very careful about how they perceive success as a rule of thumb. Let’s consider the life of our Savior. Was He a success? Suppose our Lord had measured His life by the current evangelical standard of success, He would have been laughed out of court. To many people, He was a ‘stone of stumbling,’ His own did not believe in Him, and His nation rejected Him. To them, He was a vagabond, a social outcast and had no ministerial ambition. **In**

fact, Jesus was “wounded in the house of His friends and they all forsook Him and fled.” He knew perfectly well why He came; He came to do the will of His Father, and shouldn't we also long for such a desire in our life—doing the will of God!



How would you respond to the question of success? What's true success? **Lebanese Scholar Charles Malik** showed profound wisdom when he said, **“True Success is not fame, wealth or power; rather it is seeking, knowing, loving and obeying God.”** The more I allow the Word of God sanitize my carnal thinking, the more fruitful my life becomes in God's sight.

Let's not cling to values that are not eternal. Things do not satisfy inner spiritual thirst; but a life lived in 'faithfulness and obedience' to Christ yields much blessing and comfort to the soul.

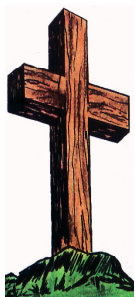
You Make the Call **'Spiritual Mutiny'**

In general conversation, when you speak about the Joy of depending on God, it can raise legitimate concerns such as food, shelter and clothing, etc. In Matthew 6:25, Jesus said, “Take no thought for your life...” It is so profound that it stops everything in its track. In our modern living, a little doubt here and a little doubt there, a mere suggestion from a friend or a loved one, soon we find ourselves having second thought about God's Word and His provisions. That's how doubt begins. It is the little doubt that clogs the artery of faith. A child of God is the one who goes against public opinion, and the ever increasing cascade of pessimism that now permeates our society.

There is nothing confusing about the walk of faith. The confusion arises from our lack of trust in God. As a believer, I am uncertain of the days ahead—but I am absolutely certain of God's ability to keep His promises. Beware of suppositions such as “what about this and what about that, and are you not worried?” Isn't it time that we call ourselves the followers of Christ who are willing to place ourselves in God's hand? When we exercise simple faith, we are never foolish; we discern spiritual truths all the time. When we display our expertise to show everyone how capable we are, we end up with lack of trust in God. Faith that is firm and undisturbed is the faith that pleases God. **“Trust is never tension; true faith is complete relaxation.”** As people of God, let's RELAX and place our trust in Him with great confidence in His ability to care for us. Remember, our God will never let us down. **Beloved, let go the shore-lines and launch out into the deep in obedience to His command! Thank you Father for the privilege of depending on you!**

--- *Matthew Skariak*

“Faith is believing what God says, simply because it's God who says it.”



The WPB Ministries

PRAYER IS THE MIGHTIEST FORCE -- 2 Chronicles 7:14

Website: www.worldprayerband.com

E-mail: mwpbs@yahoo.com



Intercession ★ Prayer Conferences ★ Revivals
One to One Outreach ★ Publications

Phone: (575) 626-5097 • World Prayer Band P.O. Box 92953 • Southlake, Texas 76092