

And what about us, the living? How will we decide our destiny?

The fate of the dead is already sealed. God says that "it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). Now, it is up to us to make the right decisions and decide our fate for eternity. Someone once asked, "What must I do to be saved?" And they said, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and your household" (Acts 16:31, 32). This belief will cause a change. With the power of Christ, combined with personal effort to correct one's life, the true believer in Jesus will correct his character defects and be prepared for eternal life. "The soul that sins, it shall die... But if the wicked turns from all his sins that he has committed, and keeps all My statutes, and does what is lawful and right, he shall surely live; he shall not die. None of his transgressions that he has committed will be remembered against him because of his righteousness."

He who has done this will live." Ezekiel 18:21-22. We must lean on Jesus, asking for His help and reading His Word, to follow the path of life. Only by staying with Him will we be safe.

"...I have set before you today life and good, death and evil; for I command you today to love the Lord your God...and to keep His commandments...that you may live and multiply, and the Lord your God may bless you...but if your heart turns away, and you will not listen...then I warn you today that you will surely perish...choose life, so that you may live...to love the Lord your God, to listen to His voice, and to hold fast to Him, for He is your life" Deuteronomy 30:15-20. God bless you.

* The Ten Commandments of God are in Exodus 20:3-17, in the Catholic and Evangelical Bibles.

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He will wipe away your tears

"But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who are asleep, so that you do not grieve 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 not precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of God and with the trumpet call of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will always be with the Lord." 4:13-18

We do not accept death because we were not prepared for it. God created us for life and happiness. Death

came because we disobeyed Him. But He has already provided a way to solve the problem: Jesus. "The wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus" (Romans 6:23). This has nothing to do with congregating in a church building. It is a universal plan designed to benefit all peoples, nations, tribes, and languages. "God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life" (John 3:16). Jesus "bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness" (1 Peter 2:24). His resurrection is proof that the dead will be resurrected.

"There must be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). We will see our loved ones again. Every person who believes the words of the Bible has this hope.

Did he die safe?

In this regard, we are taught to trust and rely on the love and wisdom of God. "Do not say in your heart, 'Who shall ascend into heaven?' or, 'Who shall descend into the deep?'" (Romans 10:7). He who made so great a sacrifice for the salvation of all, by giving His Son, will certainly leave no one outside who should be among the righteous. He does not err in judgment. Man looks on the outward appearance, but God looks on the heart. There may be one in a coffin whom everyone considers to be lost, but he repented and received the grace of God, changing his mind.

way of being in the last hour. He will be with Christ in paradise. Therefore, if your loved one died among the righteous, and you are also among them, you will have him or her back, never to lose him or her again. "God will wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain." Revelation 21:4, 5.

"Do not say in your heart, 'Who will ascend into heaven?' or 'Who will descend into the deep?'"

Rom. 10:7

Freeing yourself from fear

God says that "the dead know nothing, and they have no more reward, but the memory of them remains



consigned to oblivion. Even their love, their hatred and their envy have already perished and have no more share in this world in anything

"There is nothing that is done under the sun" Ecclesiastes 9:5, 6. The dead "sleep," unconscious of what is going on around them. Their bodies "return to the dust" - dissolve into the earth; and "the spirit," which is the breath of life, the power that keeps them alive, "returns to God who gave it" Ecclesiastes 12:7. So they remain asleep until the day of resurrection. Said the king of Israel: "The grave cannot praise Thee, death cannot honor Thee: Nor will those who go down to the pit hope for Your truth. The living, the living, they will praise You, as I do today." Isaiah 38:18, 19. "Neither will they visit us to torment us or to give us advice, for they have no more part in anything that is done under the sun." We need not, therefore, be afraid of

ghosts or "troubled souls". The dead will remain sleeping the sleep of death, unconscious, until the day of resurrection.

God's Word does not teach that God will burn the wicked forever. It will be like this: "The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His (Jesus') voice. And they who have done good will come forth to the resurrection of life, and they who have done evil, to the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:29, 30).

After being resurrected to receive the reward for their evil deeds, the wicked will be burned and die forever:



"Behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as fire; and all the proud, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble...and ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet, in the day that I will do this, saith the LORD." Mal. 4:1, 2. God says that the wicked "shall be as though they had never been" Obadiah 1:16. The devil himself will die. Speaking of him, God says: "I will destroy you... you will never be again forever"

Eze. 28:14-19.

Many people confuse some texts that They relate in symbolic language the reward of the wicked, and attribute a literal meaning to them, hence the error of understanding that the Bible supports the belief in an "eternal fire". An example is this: "And it shall come to pass, that... all flesh shall come to worship before Me, saith the LORD. And they shall go out and look upon the dead bodies of the men that have transgressed against Me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched:

and they shall be an abomination to all flesh" (Isaiah 66:24). Worms live only a few days. Therefore, the expression in the text "their worm shall never die" can only be symbolic. It does not mean that the person will be eternally eaten by worms and burned by fire, in suffering, without ever being consumed. The text itself states that the wicked will be dead, and says that the saints "shall see the dead bodies of the men that have transgressed". The meaning of the text is that the worshippers of God will forever remember the consequences that sin brings upon those who love disobedience. And so they will not want to do it again.

"The hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear His voice"