

Is Death Final?

Many people have the idea that death is final, that when the physical body expires, there is nothing more. Then, too, there are those who do believe that there is life after death. Religions of the world have their beliefs, and these vary greatly and none of them really agree on much of anything. A study of the world's religions will reveal that their founders have all died. In the Christian faith, our founder, the Lord Jesus Christ, is alive because He is God, **THE ONLY true God!** So then, everything that we believe is found in His Word, the Bible; the Bible is God's Word forever settled in Heaven. God used human men to write His words that we have in the Bible for, "We have also a more sure word of prophecy; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, until the day dawn, and the day star arise in your hearts: Knowing this first, that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." {2 Peter 1:19-21} The Word of God that we have in our Bible is as Scripture says, "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." {Psalm 119:89}

It is in the Bible that we read, ²⁴"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. ²⁵Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. ²⁶For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself; ²⁷and hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man. ²⁸Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, ²⁹And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." {John 5:24-29}

The above Bible verses tell us that death is **NOT** final as some people may believe. Those who have repented of sin and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, have received Him as personal Saviour, they are no longer under the condemnation of God because they have been forgiven and are eternally saved and their names are written in the Lamb's book of life. On the other hand, those who have not done this are, at this very moment, under God's condemnation. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." {John 3:18} For these people, their name is **NOT** written in the Lamb's book of life.

Of those who die now, the forgiven ones immediately go to be with Jesus Christ in Heaven but¹, those who have not trusted Him as Saviour immediately go to the place the Bible calls hell.² ¹"We are confident, *I say*, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord." {2 Corinthians 5:8} ²"And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments. . ." {Luke 16:23}

But it does not end there because, as the verses shared earlier say, there is coming a time when the bodies of all dead people will be raised. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." {1 Thessalonians 4:16-17} This is for Christians only; those who have truly repented of sin and by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, have trusted Him as personal Saviour. Those included in the "resurrection of damnation" are the unsaved, those who did not trust Jesus as personal Saviour. What happens to those people? "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:11-15}

Now you see my friend that death is **NOT** final but, the eternal state is. Now **THE** most important question of your life is this, "Where will **YOU** spend eternity?" If you will repent of your sin and, by faith alone in the shed blood of Jesus Christ, trust Him as your own personal Saviour, you will not only be forgiven of your sins but, you will also be saved for all eternity. How can we be so sure of this? Read what God said! "And this

is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."

~Richard A. Ciarrocca

All Scripture references are KJV