

# THE CHRISTIAN'S GREAT WORK: DYING WELL #1 GLORIFYING GOD IN OUR DEATHS

Gen. 47:27-31, 49:28-33, 50:22-26; Jhn. 21:15-25

## † The Great Duty of Glorifying God in Our Deaths

### A. Taught by Christ, Explained by John, Illustrated by Peter

**Jhn. 21:19** This he said to show by what kind of death he was to glorify God. And after saying this he said to him, "Follow me."

**Luk. 24:33-34** And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem. And they found the eleven and those who were with them gathered together, saying, "The Lord has risen indeed, and has appeared to Simon!" **1Cor. 15:4-5** ...that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve.

### B. Peter Died Well, Glorifying God in His Death as He Followed in Christ's Footsteps

**1Ptr. 2:21** For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps.

**2Ptr. 1:12-15** Therefore I intend always to remind you of these qualities, though you know them and are established in the truth that you have. I think it right, as long as I am in this body, to stir you up by way of reminder, since I know that the putting off of my body will be soon, as our Lord Jesus Christ made clear to me. And I will make every effort so that after my departure you may be able at any time to recall these things.

**Heb. 13:6-8** Remember your leaders, those who spoke to you the word of God. Consider the outcome of their way of life, and imitate their faith.

## 2 How to Glorify God in Your Death

### A. The Last Enemy, Death, Is Your Scary Friend: Own It

**1Cor. 15:25-26** For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

**1Cor. 3:21-23** For all things are yours, whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas or the world or life or death or the present or the future—all are yours, and you are Christ's, and Christ is God's.

**Psa. 116:15** Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints. **Rev. 14:13** And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!"

**Ecc. 3:1-2** For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die... **Psa. 139:16** Your eyes saw my unformed substance; in your book were written, every one of them, the days that were formed for me, when as yet there was none of them. **Rev. 12:11** And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

### B. More Light from the Apostle Peter, and a Bit from a Judge

**2Cor. 4:7** But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us.

**Jdg. 7:20-21** Then the three companies blew the trumpets and broke the jars. They held in their left hands the torches, and in their right hands the trumpets to blow. And they cried out, "A sword for the LORD and for Gideon!" Every man stood in his place around the camp, and all the army ran. They cried out and fled.

# CONFESSING OUR FAITH WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

## QUESTIONS 85 & 86

**Q** Death, being the wages of sin, why are not the righteous delivered from death, seeing all their sins are forgiven in Christ?

**A** The righteous shall be delivered from death itself at the last day, and even in death are delivered from the sting and curse of it;<sup>1</sup> so that, although they die, yet it is out of God's love,<sup>2</sup> to free them perfectly from sin and misery,<sup>3</sup> and to make them capable of further communion with Christ in glory, which they then enter upon.<sup>4</sup>

**Q** What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death?

**A** The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness,<sup>1</sup> and received into the highest heavens,<sup>2</sup> where they behold the face of God in light and glory,<sup>3</sup> waiting for the full redemption of their bodies,<sup>4</sup> which even in death continue united to Christ,<sup>5</sup> and rest in their graves as in their beds,<sup>6</sup> till at the last day they be again united to their souls.<sup>7</sup> Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.<sup>8</sup>

**So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2Cor. 5:6-8**

1. I Cor. 15:26, 55-57; Heb. 2:15 2. Isa. 57:1-2; II Kings 22:20 3. Rev. 14:13; Eph. 5:27 4. Luke 23:43; Phil 1:23  
//// 1. Heb. 12:23 2. II Cor. 5:1, 6, 8; Phil 1:23; Acts 3:21; Eph. 4:10 3. I John 3:2; I Cor. 13:12 4. Rom. 8:23;  
Psa. 16:9 5. I Thess. 4:14 6. Isa. 57:2 7. Job 19:26-27 8. Luke 16:23-24; Acts 1:25; Jude 1:6-7