

THE CHRISTIAN'S GREAT WORK: DYING WELL #2 BECOMING LIKE HIM IN HIS DEATH Numbers 23:7-12 — Acts 6:8-15, 7:54-8:3

1 The Christian on Trial & Under the Sentence of Death

A. The Believer at Death Must Make the Good Confession About Christ

Php. 3:10-11 ...that I may know him and the power of his resurrection, and may share his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead.

Act. 7:55-56 But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. And he said, "Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God."

1Tim. 6:12-13 Fight the good fight of the faith. Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called and about which you made the good confession in the presence of many witnesses. I charge you in the presence of God, who gives life to all things, and of Christ Jesus, who in his testimony before Pontius Pilate made the good confession...

B. Christ Standing in Heaven Confesses the Dying Believer Before His Father

Mat. 10:32-33 So everyone who acknowledges me before men, I also will acknowledge before my Father who is in heaven, but whoever denies me before men, I also will deny before my Father who is in heaven.

C. Dying Comforts Are Proportionate to Living Communion

Acts 6:5,8,10,15 [in his life] And what they said pleased the whole gathering, and they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and of the Holy Spirit....And Stephen, full of grace and power, was doing great wonders and signs among the people....But they could not withstand the wisdom and the Spirit with which he was speaking....And gazing at him, all who sat in the council saw that his face was like the face of an angel.

Acts 7:55 [so in his death] But he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God.

2Cor. 4:6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

2 The Christian at the Place of Death

A. The Place of Prayer at the Place of Death

Act. 7:59-60 And as they were stoning Stephen, he called out, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." And falling to his knees he cried out with a loud voice, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them."

Luk. 23:34, 46 And Jesus said, "Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do"....Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit!" And having said this he breathed his last.

B. The Peaceful Sleep of Dying Believers & the Loud Lamentation of Living Believers

Act. 7:60 And when he had said this, he fell asleep.

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!"

Act. 8:2 Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.

Jhn. 11:35 Jesus wept.

Rev. 21:4 "He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

CONFESSING OUR FAITH WESTMINSTER LARGER CATECHISM

QUESTIONS 87 & 88

Q What are we to believe concerning the resurrection??

A We are to believe, that at the last day there shall be a general resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust:¹ when they that are then found alive shall in a moment be changed; and the self-same bodies of the dead which were laid in the grave, being then again united to their souls for ever, shall be raised up by the power of Christ.² The bodies of the just, by the Spirit of Christ, and by virtue of his resurrection as their head, shall be raised in power, spiritual, incorruptible, and made like to his glorious body;³ and the bodies of the wicked shall be raised up in dishonor by him, as an offended judge.⁴

Q What shall immediately follow after the resurrection?

A Immediately after the resurrection shall follow the general and final judgment of angels and men;¹ the day and hour whereof no man knows, that all may watch and pray, and be ever ready for the coming of the Lord.²

"Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live....Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment."

John 5:25-29

1. 1 Acts 24:15 2 1 Cor. 15:51-53; 1 Thess. 4:15-17; John 5:28,29 3 1 Cor. 15:21-23,42-44; Phil. 3:21 4 John 5:27-29; Matt. 25:33 // 1 2 Pet. 2:4; Jude 6,7,14,15; Matt. 25:46 2 Matt. 24:36,42,44; Luke 21:35,36