



The Final Frontier

A Journey Through Life, Death and Beyond

A Discussion Guide ---
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For use as follow-up
discussion to *The Final
Frontier* multimedia
presentation
and in 4-12 outreach cells

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(Scripture is from the Revised Standard Version)

1 Contemplating Our Own Mortality

Warm-up

1. Have you ever faced a near death experience (accident or illness)? When did you realize that your life would someday come to an end? Did that change your outlook on life in any way?
2. What is your greatest fear, anxiety or thoughts about dying?
3. When do you expect to die? Do you expect an advance notice or warning that you will soon die?

Word

And Jesus told them a parable, saying, “The land of a rich man brought forth plentifully; and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ And he said, ‘I will do this: I will pull down my barns, and build larger ones; and there I will store all my grain and my goods. And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; take your ease, eat, drink, be merry.’ But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you; and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’

Luke 12:16-20

Many people spend their lives accumulating material things, pursuing careers and enjoying the pleasures of life. Unfortunately, few live with the perspective that their lives – and with it all their earthly pursuits – can abruptly come to an end. People often try to create an earthly security zone to isolate themselves from the reality of an untimely death or their eventual mortality.

1. The origin of death

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die.”

Genesis 2:16-17

And God said to Adam, “Because ... you have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, ‘You shall not eat of it,’ cursed is the ground because of you; in toil you shall eat of it all the days of your life. ... till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:17-19

Then the Lord God said, “Behold, the man has become like one of us, knowing good and evil; and now, lest he put forth his hand and take also of the tree of life, and eat, and live for ever” – therefore the Lord God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from which he was taken.

Genesis 3:22-23

Adam and Eve were given specific instructions to not eat the fruit from one specific tree in the Garden of Eden. What did God tell man the consequences would be if they disobeyed and ate the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil? Why did God have to send man out of the Garden? Was man permitted initially to eat from the tree of life?

2. The universal law of death

For everything there is a season, and a time for every matter under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2

Then the Lord said, “My spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh, but his days shall be a hundred and twenty years.”

Genesis 6:3

Thou dost sweep men away; they are like a dream, like grass which is renewed in the morning: in the morning it flourishes and is renewed; in the evening it fades and withers. For all our days pass away under your wrath, our years come to an end like a sigh.

Psalms 90:5-6, 9

But man dies, and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he?

Job 14:10

Man hopes to delay death through modern medicine; the reality is that death is inevitable and all of nature is subject to the universal law of death. As man or any living thing dies, all of its glory also passes away. What can we take with us when we die? Is there anything we can do after we die?

3. God’s ultimate desire today

Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Ezekiel 18:23

Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord God; so turn, and live.

Ezekiel 18:30

Behold the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death

shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:1-4

God made man in his image and higher than the angels. His desire is fellowship with man. Even after Adam and Eve disobeyed God and tried to hide from God, God walked through the Garden searching for his friend, Adam, that he might dwell with him. The heart of God is no different today. Do you think God's ultimate intention and desire is for man to die and simply fade away? What is God's heart towards death?

4. A Christian's Perspective

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Psalm 23:4

... Christ will be honored in my body, whether by life or by death. For to me is live is Christ, and to die is gain. If it is to be life in the flesh, that means fruitful labor for me. Yet which I shall choose I cannot tell. I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. But to remain is more necessary on your account.

Philippians 1: 20-24

David faced death many times as he was hunted by King Saul and others. The Apostle Paul was also imprisoned, beaten and sentenced to death. Yet both had strength and courage when facing death. What was their perspective on life and death?

Personal Application

1. Are you afraid of dying? How can you overcome those fears?
2. How would you compare or consider the state of death compared to life?
3. Are you ready to die if it should happen tonight? If you knew in advance that you would die tonight, would there be peace in your heart about it?

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

2 Considering the Spiritual Dimension

Warm-up

1. Have you ever thought there might be a spiritual dimension to human life?
2. Do we, as a person, have a spiritual dimension or are we just flesh and bones?
3. Do you think there is some form of another life after death?

Word

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

The focus of the bible from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation is on man's spirituality and the eternal state of one's soul. The underlying theme is the eternal duration of man's spirit and soul, which surpasses man's temporary earthly physical body. From a biblical perspective, it is clear that man's existence transcends our mortal nature and life here on earth.

1. The spirit of man

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness."

Genesis 1:26

Then the Lord God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being.

Genesis 2:7

Thus says the Lord, who stretched out the heavens and founded the earth and formed the spirit of man within him ...

Zechariah 12:12

May your spirit and soul and body be kept sound and blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

1 Thessalonians 5:23

Man was created in the image of God who is a spiritual being. While we have a physical body, there is also another dimension (our spirit) that brings life to our physical body. Is our existence as a person entirely determined by our physical body?

2. Separation of soul and body at death

And as Rachel's soul was departing (for she died), she called his name Benoni, but his father called his name Benjamin.

Genesis 35:18

Then he stretched himself upon the child three times, and cried to the Lord, "O Lord my God, let this child's soul come into him again." And the Lord harkened to the voice of Elijah; and the soul of the child came into him again, and he revived.

I Kings 17: 21-22

Jesus said to the disciples ... "There was a rich man, who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate lay a poor man named Lazarus... The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried; and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes, and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus in his bosom.

Luke 16:19-23

And Jesus said to the criminal: *"Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in Paradise."*

Luke 23:43

There are numerous references to the separation of a person's soul or spirit from the physical body at time of death. The body is dead and lifeless, but the spirit or soul of a person continues on. Have you ever been with a person at the moment they have died? What was that experience like?

3. God's design of immortality

...our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

2 Timothy 1:10

The free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 6:23

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

John 11:25

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whosoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

God's intended plan for man was immortality and eternal life. What is the definition of immortality and eternal? If a person's existence is determined only by the physical body, how can man then have eternal life?

4. The rebirth of the Spirit

Jesus answered him, "Truly, truly I say to you, unless one is born again, he cannot see the Kingdom of God." Nicodemus said to him, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter a second time into his mother's womb and be born?" Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit. Do not marvel that I said to you, 'You must be born again.'"

John 3:5-7

Jesus clearly refers to the spirit of a man and the spirit being renewed or born again – something that is separate from our fleshly body. Jesus spoke many times about an earthly life but also references a spiritual life after death. Why did Jesus tell Nicodemus, an adult, that he must be born again? What was he referring to? Did it happen at Nicodemus's natural birth?

Personal Application

1. Does your physical body entirely define your existence as a person?
2. Would you like your soul to live forever, even after it departs your earthly body?
3. Have you ever been born again in the Spirit?

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

3 Facing Life's Judgment

Warm-up

1. Should evil doers like Hitler and Stalin face a greater judgment and receive a greater punishment than just physical death? What should be their fate for eternity?
2. Will we ever have to give an account for our life and actions? Is our earthly consequences to our actions the only judgment we will face? What if someone never gets caught?
3. Does what we do on earth have any lasting eternal consequences?

Word

And Jesus told them ... *When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world... Then he will say to those at his left hand, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels...And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."*

Matthew 25:31-34,41,46

Jesus speaks of a time when all the people who have lived on earth will stand before God – some will inherit the Kingdom, as God had intended from the creation of man, and others will receive an eternal punishment. There will be a day of judgment to separate the righteous from others. Let us consider further what the bible has to say about this day of judgment.

1. The resurrection after death

As it was in the days of Noah, so will it be in the days of the Son of man. They ate, they drank, they married, they were given in marriage, until the day when Noah entered the ark, and the flood came and destroyed them all. Likewise as it was in the days of Lot – they ate, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they built, but on the day when Lot went out from Sodom, fire and sulphur rained from heaven and destroyed them all – so it will be on the day when the Son of man is revealed.

Luke 17:26-30

If the dead are not raised, "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

1 Corinthians 15:32

There will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust.

Acts 24:15

But some one will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

1 Corinthians 15:35,42,44

Many have a lackadaisical attitude towards death – their philosophy is to live life to the “fullest” for there is nothing else after you die. However, every person will experience a resurrection after they die and one’s spiritual body lives on. Have you ever thought about your resurrection and your spiritual body?

2. The coming day of judgment

And just as it is appointed for men to die once, and after that comes judgment.

Hebrews 9:27-28

The heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men ... But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.

2 Peter 3:7-11

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it; from his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done.

Revelation 20:11-13

The earth will one day no longer exist as we know it. On that day, each person will experience resurrection from the dead and stand before God to face judgment. How will this day of the Lord come? Who will stand before the throne of God in judgment?

3. What will be judged?

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

2 Corinthians 5:10

Therefore I will judge you, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from all the transgressions

which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord God; so turn, and live.

Ezekiel 18:30

Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

We will be judged that day by what is written in the books – which has an account and record of every thing we have done. Will only the good things be recorded? Will only those public things everyone knows about be recorded? What are we encouraged to do in living our lives today?

4. The two outcomes of judgment

Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.

John 5:28-29

...when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty angels in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance upon those who do not know God and upon those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. They shall suffer the punishment of eternal destruction and exclusion from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.

2 Thessalonians 1:7-9

Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and if any one's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 20:14-15

But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.

Revelation 21:8

There are only two outcomes on resurrection day – eternal life or eternal judgment in the lake of fire. There is no middle ground or other alternatives. What is the consequence for those whose names are not written in the book of life? What type of people are described as those receiving the second death?

5 Can we alter our fate from judgment to life after we die?

And the rich man called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy upon me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things; but now he is

comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father to send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’

Luke 16:24-28

After death, the rich man now realized his eternal fate of anguish. Could he receive mercy? Was there a way for him to join Abraham and Lazarus? Who can cross from one place to the other? What did the rich man want to do for his five brothers that were still living?

Personal Application

1. Have you ever thought about resurrection and what the day of judgment would be like?
2. Would you be ready to give an account for your life and all you have done?
3. For a moment, imagine yourself in the place of torment alongside the rich man. What would that be like for eternity? Is there someone you would like to warn?

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

4 The Choice of Eternal Life

Warm-up

1. What do you imagine it would be like to live forever in heaven?
2. Do you think we have a choice about where we will spend eternity?
3. How would you determine if someone has done good and deserves eternal life versus eternal judgment? What standards would you use?

Word

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:1-4, 6-7

Jesus said that he was going to prepare a beautiful place for eternity – a place where men will dwell in the presence of a holy and righteous God. When Jesus returns, the earth as we know it will pass away and be replaced with a new heaven and earth – streets paved with gold and where there will be no sorrow nor pain. But this is reserved only for those who inherit the resurrection of life. Let us explore how one can have this heritage.

1. Man's disobedience, sin and death

And the Lord God commanded the man, saying, "You may freely eat of every tree of the garden; but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall die."

Genesis 2:16-17

Sin came into the world through one man and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all men sinned.

Romans 5:12

None is righteous, no, not one; no one understands, no one seeks for God. All have turned aside, together they have gone wrong. No one does good, not even one.

Romans 3:10-12

And Jesus said to him. “No one is good but God alone.”

Mark 18:19

What return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things are death. For the wages of sin is death...

Romans 6:21,23

Through Adam’s disobedience of God’s simple command, mankind has ever since had a sinful nature. What was the punishment or consequence of disobedience? What is the end of man’s sinful ways?

2. Jesus’ sacrifice to conquer sin and death

The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”

John 1:29

For we know that Christ being raised from the dead will never die again, death no longer has dominion over him. The death he died he died to sin, once for all, but the life he lives he lives to God.

Romans 6:9

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ, the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15: 22-26

What was the primary purpose of Jesus coming to earth? When Jesus, the perfect and holy Son of God, was crucified on the cross, whose sin and punishment did he bear through his death? While sin leads to death, Jesus broke the power of that sin through his resurrection from the dead. What is the significance to us personally when Jesus conquered sin and death?

3. The gift of eternal life through Jesus

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die.”

John 11:25

Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:24

And this is eternal life, that they know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou has sent.

John 17:3

Because Jesus is the only one who has conquered sin and death (no prophet or anyone else has ever done it), we can obtain eternal life only through him. What are some of the promises for those who believe in Jesus?

4. Man's individual choice

See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey ... you shall live and multiply. But if your heart turns away ... you shall perish. I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live.

Deuteronomy 30:15-20

But if a wicked man turns away from all his sins which 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 the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness which he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?... Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 18:21-23, 28

God does not force man to obey him – God wants us to make the choice to willingly obey out of a respect and love for Him. God has created man with a free will and the ability to choose as one wishes. While man has that free will and choice, God has also set forth clear consequences based on our choice. What are the two choices that God has given man? What are the consequences of each choice?

5. What shall we then do?

Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord God; so turn, and live.

Ezekiel 18:30

Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, "Brethren, what shall we do?" And Peter said to them, "Repent, and be baptized

every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is to you and to your children and to all that are far off.”

Acts 2:37-39

When the crowd that was listening to Peter heard that Jesus was crucified to the cross because of their own personal sin and disobedience, they were cut to the heart with great sorrow. As a result of that sorrow, they wanted to know what to do. For those that are interested in choosing eternal life, what must one do to get a new heart and a new spirit?

Personal Application

1. Can you earn eternal life on your own merits? Even as much as we try to do good, why is it that we still fall short?
2. What is the significance of Jesus death and resurrection to you personally?
3. Have you ever personally done what Peter said should be done? Describe why you decided to make that choice at that time.

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

5 Living the Priorities of Life

Warm-up

1. How much emphasis and time do you put on gaining material possessions?
2. What things are most important to you? What brings the ultimate satisfaction, contentment and peace in your life?
3. What would you be willing to die for?

Word

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness. Therefore, ... be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

2 Peter 3:10-12,14

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:12

When a person lives their life in light of eternity, it will shape their purpose, focus and priorities in their daily living. One's perspective shifts from the temporal to the eternal. The purpose of life is no longer just surviving day by day, enjoying the fleeting pleasures of life, or accumulating possessions. The purpose of life is much more significant and meaningful – one that transcends our brief life here on earth. In pursuing that purpose, one will find true contentment, satisfaction, joy and peace – with no sorrow added unto it.

1. Eternal perspective on material possessions

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also. No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (money and riches). But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.

Matthew 6:19-21, 24, 33

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the

pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

1 John 2:15-17

For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?

Matthew 16:25-26

Jesus tells the story of a rich man who prospers and decides to build bigger barns while enjoying the ease of life – eating, drinking and being merry (Luke 12:16-20). Jesus called him a fool because that night his soul was required of him –all his possessions were lost and he had not given the state of his soul any consideration. How much emphasis do we have in our life on building bigger houses, accumulating more possessions and focusing on the things of this world? What will it profit us to gain the whole world and yet forfeit our life when we die? What can we take with us when we die? What will last forever? Have you been placing an emphasis on the wrong priorities?

2. Things more valuable than gold

Thus says the Lord: “Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories, glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practice steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the Lord.”

Jeremiah 9:23-24

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Psalms 19:7-11

Many people like to boast of what they have accomplished, achieved or purchased. However, these things do not begin to compare to the treasures that God has for us. What does the Lord encourage us to boast of in our life? What are the things that God considers more valuable than gold and we are encouraged to desire? What are some of the benefits and outcomes of these things?

3. The most important thing in life

Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man.

Ecclesiastes 12:13

“Which commandment is the first of all?” Jesus answered, “The first is ... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Mark 12:28-30

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

John 14:15,21

He who says, “I know him” but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

1 John 2:4-6

... that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, to lead a life worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God.

Colossians 1:9-10

When asked what the greatest commandment in life was, Jesus answered: Love God with everything you have. We often misunderstand what it means to love God. Jesus said if we love God, then we will obey him and keep his commandments and his word. Can a person disobey God's word and still know and love God? How can God's love be perfected in us? What are some practical things that should result in a person's life as they grow in their love for God?

4. The second most important focus in life

The second (commandment) is this: You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

Mark 12:31

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 13:34-35

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

John 15:12-13

After exhorting us to love God, Jesus gives us the second greatest commandment of loving others. One cannot fulfill the first commandment without also fulfilling the second commandment and vice versa. What is our example and model of how we are to love others?

What is the greatest demonstration of love for a person? What are some practical ways we can fulfill the second commandment?

5. What did Jesus tell us to do in life?

And Jesus came and said to them, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age.”

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus said to them, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Mark 16:15-16

Him we proclaim, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man mature in Christ.

Colossians 1:28

Jesus was getting ready to leave his disciples after his resurrection. However, he wanted to give them one last word of wisdom and direction and this was the most important instruction to impart before ascending into heaven. What did Jesus command the disciples to do? When we die and enter heaven, will we be able to share the news about eternal life with others? Why do you think this is so important for us to do now? With eternity in perspective, is there a more practical way of loving a person than sharing the gospel?

Personal Application

1. If you only had six months to live, how would you live your life differently? What prevents you from doing that now?
2. What are the priorities and goals in your life? How much time do you actually spend on your priorities and goals?
3. When you die, what type of impact would you like to leave and be remembered by?

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

6 Receiving Life's Rewards

Warm-up

1. Have you ever received a bonus from your employer for doing a good job? Why do you think you received the bonus or promotion?
2. Should someone be rewarded for their good works and effort, especially if it is to bless and help others?
3. Which would you treasure more and prefer – rewards given by men here on earth or rewards given by God in heaven?

Word

For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

A person's eternal destination is based on whether or not that person believes in Jesus Christ. If one does believe, their name is written in the Lamb's book of life and they will receive eternal life, escaping judgment and the lake of fire. No amount of good works will enable a person to escape eternal judgment if their name is not written in the book of life. There is second judgment that will be based on what we have done and how we have behaved, with each work tested by fire. Even though one's eternal destination remains secure in heaven, God will issue eternal rewards and compensation according to what we have done.

1. The judgment of works by Christ

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. So each shall give account of himself to God.

Romans 14:10,12

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done.

Luke 16:27

It is the Lord who judges me, ... who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

1 Corinthians 4:4-5

Jesus will not simply judge our deeds good or evil but will return to issue the just reward for our actions – to repay each according to his works. We will then receive good or evil as an eternal compensation for our actions. What we do here on earth does matter in eternity. What will be brought to light? Will only our actions and deeds be tested or will our motives also be judged?

2. The judgment of evil deeds

But by your hard and penitent heart you are storing up wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. For he will render to every man according to his works: To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but those who are factious and do not obey the truth, but obey wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, ... but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good.

Romans 2:5-10

Woe to you Chorazin and Bethsaida ... it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum ... it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.

Matthew 11:21-24

Many will face eternal judgment and that eternal judgment will also be much worse for some than for others. It is important to keep in mind, that even though it may be more tolerable, eternal judgment will still be full of torment, anguish and consummation by fire. Hell is not a desirable place – even in its most tolerable state – and for some it will be much worse still. What is stored up for those who do not obey the truth and do evil?

3. The rewards of God

Without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

Hebrews 11:6

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay everyone for what he has done.

Revelations 22:12

For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.

Hebrews 6:1

The laborer deserves his wages.

1 Timothy 5:18

But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

Matthew 6:20

We serve a God who does reward those who are faithful and does not overlook our service, even when it may be overlooked by those around us. God speaks of a treasure that he will bring for us when we return – wages that are not of this earth. Where should we lay up our treasures? How does this change the way we serve?

4. Exemplary actions worthy of a reward

Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

Matthew 6:1

But when you give alms, do not let our left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:3-4

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:6

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

Matthew 6:17-18

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great.

Luke 6:35

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

Luke 14:13-14

They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters of father or mother or children or lands, for my names sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

Matthew 19:29

Jesus said to him, "If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me."

Luke 19:21

Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward is great in heaven.

Luke 6:22-23

There are many examples and references to receiving a reward or treasure in heaven, rather than here on earth. Many people serve to receive recognition and honor by others. When we do so, what happens to our reward in heaven? What pattern do you see in these examples?

5. Faithful stewardship leads to eternal rulership

For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ... Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ... To the ones who increased the talents given to them, the master said: Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master. To the one who did nothing with his talent, the master said: Take the talent from him and give it to him who has the ten talents. ... And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness, there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

Matthew 25:14-30

A nobleman went into a far country to receive a kingdom and then return. Calling ten of his servants, he gave them ten pounds (minas), and said to them, 'Trade with these till I come.' ... When he returned, having received the kingdom, he called the servants that he might know what they had gained by trading. ... And he said to the one who made ten pounds (minas) more: 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' ... To the one who did nothing, he said: 'Take the pound from him and give it to him who has the ten pounds. I tell you, that to every one who has will more be given; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.'

Luke 19:11-27

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephesians 2:10

Jesus told two different parables that illustrated God's expectation for us until he returns – that we are to be faithful using and increasing our talents for the Kingdom of God and for the service of the King. The focus of life is not just waiting idly for the return of Jesus and going to heaven. While we are on earth, we should be productive, fruitful and faithful stewards for the

advancement of God's Great Commission. How were the talents allocated to each servant? Was the emphasis on the number of talents or what the servants did with the talents? What was the reward for those who were found faithful stewards? What were the rewards for those who did nothing? We are created to do good works – works that have already been prepared for us to do. How does this impact the way you live your daily life?

Personal Application

1. Have you ever thought about standing before Jesus Christ and receiving the rewards of your life?
2. What type of fruit do you have in your life? How do you think your actions and deeds would survive the test of fire?
3. What things in life would you do differently now?

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

7 Wrestling with the Loss of Others

Warm-up

1. Have you ever had someone close to you die? What was the hardest thing about that situation?
2. Have there been situations where you have questioned or blamed God for tragedies?
3. How has the death of others or tragic situations impacted your life?

Word

The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me to bring good tidings to the afflicted; he has sent me to bind up the broken hearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit.

Isaiah 61:1-3

There are many times when life doesn't make sense and our pain seems more real to us than the existence of a gracious, loving God. The reality of life is that there are tragedies, pain, heartache and mourning – and often we search for explanations and answers. The reality of life is that there is also a loving God who can and wants to heal our pain and comfort us in our mourning. When wrestling with the loss of others, only the scriptures can give us hope and encouragement.

1. Seeking the answer to the question 'Why'

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: "Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ... Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding."

Job 38:1-2,4

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

Job 42:3

It is natural for a person to want to understand the 'why' when faced with tragedies. Many spend the rest of their life looking for the answer to the question 'why' only to never find a satisfactory answer. Some in the process begin to blame God for allowing the tragedy to happen and grow angry and bitter over their loss. Job was a man who had every reason to ask God 'why.' Job lost everything – all of his livestock, servants, and ten children were killed in a single day. What was

God's answer to Job's wrestling with the question why? Could it be that God has a bigger understanding and perspective than we do? Is it possible that sometimes we may never find the answer to the question why? How did Job reply to God?

2. The choice to trust or despair

Then Job arose, and rent his robe, and shaved his head, and fell upon the ground, and worshipped. And Job said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return; the Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord."

Job 1:21

Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace; and he will deliver us out of your hand, O king. But if not, be it known to you, O king, that we will not serve your gods or worship the golden image which you have set up.

Daniel 3:17-18

God is well able to deliver us and protect us from tragedies – but the real test is how we react, when for some unknown reason, God seems like he does not shelter us from tragedies. Rather than getting angry and bitter at God, how did Job respond when he was brought the news of his tragic losses? When the three men were faced with the threat of being thrown into the fiery furnace, how did they respond? True peace comes only when we eventually surrender our loss to God and choose to trust his ultimate wisdom rather than choosing to dwell in our own despair. Have you ever had to make the choice to trust God rather than despair in the tragedies of life? What helped you in making that choice?

3. The spiritual battle for our lives

"I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has the power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear him!"

Luke 12:4-5

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

John 10:10

Then Satan answered the Lord, "Does Job fear God for nought? Hast thou not put a hedge about him and his house and all that he has, on every side? Thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But put forth thy hand now, and touch all that he has, and he will curse thee to thy face." And the Lord said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only upon himself do not put forth your hand." So Satan went forth from the presence of the Lord.

Job 1:9-12

Often times we have a limited understanding of the bigger purposes of God that are at play. Sometimes there are spiritual battles that we are not fully aware of. It is easy for us to simply

blame God for the tragedies in life when perhaps the “blame” should lie elsewhere. God is able to protect us from evil but we also know that God’s ultimate purpose and glory is the bigger story in life – and that purpose is much greater and more important than our individual lives. What does the enemy come to do? What did Jesus come to do? Do we serve God simply because he protects us or because we truly love him for who he is, rather than what he does for us?

4. Jesus knows the sorrow in the death of others

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, “Where have you laid him?” They said to him, “Lord, come and see.” Jesus wept. So the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”

John 11:33-36

Thou hast kept count of my tossings; put thou my tears in thy bottle! Are they not in thy book?

Psalms 56:8

Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints.

Psalms 116:15

When you truly love someone, it is natural to have sorrow, to mourn and to miss that person. Jesus lost one of his best friends when Lazarus died. What did Jesus do when he saw his friend that had died? What does God do with all of our tears? The Lord dearly loves those who believe in him. Why do you think it is precious to the Lord when one of us dies?

5. God can truly comfort us

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

2 Corinthians 1:3-4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

Psalms 23:4

For I am certain that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Romans 8:38

It is in our mourning that we truly experience the comfort of God. If we never go through tragedies, we will also not intimately know the father of mercies and the God of all comfort. What will we be able to do for others if we go through affliction ourselves? When we go through the valleys of life, why do we need not fear? Can there be anything, including death and tragedies, that can separate us from the love of God?

6. The faithfulness of God

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

Romans 8:28

And the Lord restored the fortunes of Job, when he had prayed for his friends; and the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. And the Lord blessed the latter days of Job more than his beginning.

Job 42: 10,12

Jesus said to her, “Did I not tell you that if you would believe you would see the glory of God?” So they took away the stone... The dead man Lazarus came out.

John 11:40,44

What the enemy meant for evil, God wants to turn and use it for his glory. Even though it may look like the darkest Friday in history, Sunday morning is coming – and when it does, it will come in all of its splendor and glory. What we may think something is a tragedy, but really be an opportunity to bring greater glory to God. Often, we don't understand that until much later and the purpose and outcome can be much different than we had in mind. What eventually happened in the story of Job? While the friends of Jesus were upset that Lazarus was not healed and died, what did God really have in mind?

7. The victory over death

He will swallow up death for ever, and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces, and the reproach of his people he will take away from all the earth; for the Lord has spoken.

Isaiah 25:8

God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

Revelation 21:3-4

When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory. O death where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?”

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

The greatest comfort comes from knowing that one day there will be no more death and tragedies. God said that he himself will wipe away every tear from our eyes. In that day, every sting and pain of death will be gone. When we see the tragedies of life through the eyes of eternity, how does that help us?

Personal Application

1. Will we always understand when we ask God the question, “Why?”
2. What will bring us comfort in time of pain? Do we choose to despair or do we choose to trust God, even when it is not easy?
3. How can we comfort others?

Prayer

On the space below, record prayer requests and answers to prayer.

Psalm 23:4

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff, they comfort me.

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John 11:33-36

When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled; and he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." Jesus wept. So the Jews said, "See how he loved him!"

Revelation 7:17

For the Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of living water; and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.

Revelation 21:3-4

God himself will be with them; he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away.

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mourn; to grant to those who mourn in Zion – to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit;

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Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God.

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Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

Job 38:1-2,4

Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind: “Who is this that darkens counsel by words without knowledge? ... Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? Tell me, if you have understanding.”

Romans 8:28

We know that in everything God works for good with those who love him, who are called according to his purpose.

Matthew 10:28

And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul; rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 12:4-5

“I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has the power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear him!”

John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have it abundantly.

Hebrews 6:1

For God is not so unjust as to overlook your work and the love which you showed for his sake in serving the saints, as you still do.

1 Corinthians 3:11-15

For no other foundation can any one lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any one builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw – each man's work will become manifest; for the Day will disclose it, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. If the work which any man has built on the foundation survives, he will receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he will suffer loss, though he himself will be saved, but only as through fire.

1 Corinthians 4:4-5

It is the Lord who judges me. Therefore, do not pronounce judgment before the time, before the Lord comes, who will bring to light the things now hidden in darkness and will disclose the purposes of the heart. Then every man will receive his commendation from God.

Revelation 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.

Luke 6:20-23

Jesus said: "Blessed are you poor, for yours is the Kingdom of God. Blessed are you that hunger, for you shall be satisfied. Blessed are you that weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men hate you, and when they exclude you and revile you, and cast out your name as evil, on account of the Son of man! Rejoice in that day, and leap for joy, for behold, your reward (wages) is great in heaven."

1 Timothy 5:18

The laborer deserves his wages.

Mark 9:41

For truly I say to you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ, will by no means lose his reward.

Luke 6:35

But love your enemies, and do good, and lend, expecting nothing in return; and your reward will be great.

Matthew 6:1, 3-4, 6, 17-18

Beware of practicing your piety before men in order to be seen by them; for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.

But when you give alms, do not let our left hand know what your right hand is doing, so that your alms may be in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

But when you pray, go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

But when you fast, anoint your head and wash your face, that your fasting may not be seen by men but by your Father who is in secret; and your Father who sees in secret will reward you.

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Without faith it is impossible to please him. For whoever would draw near to God must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who seek him.

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For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

Romans 14:10,12

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. So each shall give account of himself to God.

Luke 16:27

For the Son of man is to come with his angels in the glory of his Father, and then he will repay every man for what he has done (NIV – ‘reward each according to his works’).

Luke 19:21

Jesus said to him, “If you would be perfect, go, sell what you possess and give it to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow me.”

Luke 14:13-14

But when you give a feast, invite the poor, the maimed, the lame, the blind, and you will be blessed, because they cannot repay you. You will be repaid at the resurrection of the just.

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Woe to you Chorazin and Bethsaida ... it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum ... it shall be more tolerable on the day of judgment for the land of Sodom than for you.

Matthew 19:29

And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters of father or mother or children or lands, for my names sake, will receive a hundredfold, and inherit eternal life.

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But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven.

1 Timothy 6:18-19

They are to do good, to be rich in good deeds, liberal and generous, thus laying up for themselves a good foundation for the future.

Romans 2:5-10

But by your hard and penitent heart you are storing up wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. For he will render to every man according to his works: To those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give eternal life; but those who are factious and do not obey the truth, but obey wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does evil, ... but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does good.

Ephesians 2:10

For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Revelations 22:12

Behold, I am coming soon, bringing my recompense, to repay everyone for what he has done.

John 14:2-3

In my Father's house are many rooms; if it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And when I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.

Matthew 25:14-30 (21,23)

For it will be as when a man going on a journey called his servants and entrusted to them his property; to one he gave five talents, to another two, to another one, to each according to his ability. Then he went away. ... Now after a long time the master of those servants came and settled accounts with them. ...

Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.

And cast the worthless servant into the outer darkness, there men will weep and gnash their teeth.

Luke 19:11-27 (17,26)

And he said to him, 'Well done, good servant! Because you have been faithful in little, you shall have authority over ten cities.' 'I tell you, that to every one who has will more be given; but from him who has not, even what he has will be taken away.'

So teach us to number our days that we may get a heart of wisdom.

Psalms 90:12

1 John 2:4-6

He who says, "I know him" but disobeys his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him; but whoever keeps his word, in him truly love for God is perfected. By this we may be sure that we are in him: he who says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.

2 Peter 3:10-12,14

But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness. Therefore, ... be zealous to be found by him without spot or blemish, and at peace.

Matthew 16:25-26

For whoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. For what will it profit a man, if he gains the whole world and forfeits his life?

1 John 2:15-17

Do not love the world or the things in the world. If any one loves the world, love for the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the pride of life, is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world passes away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus came and said to them, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age."

Mark 16:15-16

And Jesus said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to the whole creation. He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Jeremiah 9:23-24

Thus says the Lord: "Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the mighty man glory in his might, let not the rich man glory in his riches; but let him who glories, glory in this, that he understands and knows me, that I am the Lord who practice steadfast love, justice, and righteousness in the earth; for in these things I delight, says the Lord."

Mark 12:28-31

"Which commandment is the first of all?" Jesus answered, "The first is ... you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and

with all your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no commandment greater than these.”

John 13:34-35

A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; even as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.

John 15:12-13

“This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.”

John 14:15,21

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments. He who has my commandments and keeps them, he it is who loves me; and he who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and manifest myself to him.”

Matthew 6:19-21

Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust consume and where thieves break in and steal, but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust consumes and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.

Matthew 6:24

No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon (money and riches).

Matthew 6:33

But seek first his Kingdom and his righteousness and all these things shall be yours as well.

Psalms 19:7-11

The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the testimony of the Lord is sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is pure, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is clean, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey and drippings of the honeycomb. Moreover by them is thy servant warned; in keeping them there is great reward.

Deutonomy 30:15-20

See, I have set before you this day life and good, death and evil. If you obey ... you shall live and multiply. But if your heart turns away ... you shall perish. I have set before you life and death, blessing and curse; therefore choose life that you and your descendants may live.

Ezekiel 18:21-23

But if a wicked man turns away from all his sins which 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 the transgressions which he has committed shall be remembered against him; for the righteousness which he has done he shall live. Have I any pleasure in the death of the wicked, says the Lord God, and not rather that he should turn from his way and live?

Ezekiel 18:28

Because he considered and turned away from all the transgressions which he had committed, he shall surely live, he shall not die.

Ezekiel 18:30

Therefore I will judge you, every one according to his ways, says the Lord God. Repent and turn from all your transgressions, lest iniquity be your ruin. Cast away from all the transgressions which you have committed against me, and get yourselves a new heart and a new spirit! Why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of any one, says the Lord God; so turn, and live.

Romans 5:17

If, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.

Romans 6:20-23

When you were slaves of sin What return did you get from the things of which you are now ashamed? The end of those things are death. But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the return you get is sanctification and its end, eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

1 Corinthians 15:51-55

Lo! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then

shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory. O death where is thy victory? O death, where is thy sting?"

2 Timothy 1:10

...our Savior Christ Jesus, who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

Fear God, and keep his commandments; for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

John 3:5-6

Jesus answered, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit, he cannot enter the kingdom of God. That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is spirit.

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

John 5:24

Truly, truly I say to you, he who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; he does not come into judgment, but has passed from death to life.

John 5:28-29

Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming when all who are in the tombs hear his voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.

Matthew 25:31-34,41,46

When the Son of man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on his glorious throne. Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. Then the King will say to those at his right hand, 'Come, O blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

Then he will say to those at his left hand, "Depart from me, you cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.

And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life."

John 11:25 Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die."

Acts 24:15

There will be a resurrection of the just and the unjust.

But man dies, and is laid low; man breathes his last, and where is he? As waters fail from a lake, and a river wastes away and dries up, so man lies down and rises not again; till the heavens are no more he will not wake, or be roused out of his sleep.
Job 14:10-12

Romans 6:5

For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his.

1 Corinthians 15: 22-26

For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ, the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he delivers the kingdom to God the Father after destroying every rule and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 Corinthians 15:32

If the dead are not raised, "let us eat and drink, for tomorrow we die."

1 Corinthians 15:35,42,44

But some one will ask, "how are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" You foolish man! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body.

2 Corinthians 5:1

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive good or evil, according to what he has done in the body.

2 Peter 3:7-11

The heavens and earth that now exist have been stored up for fire, being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. But do not ignore this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as a day. The Lord is not slow about his promise as some count slowness, but it is forbearing towards you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance. But the day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will pass away with a loud noise, and the elements will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. Since all these things are thus to be dissolved, what sort of persons ought you to be in lives of holiness and godliness.

Revelation 20:11-15

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it; from his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Also another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by what they had done. And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done. Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire; and if any one's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Revelation 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the Holy City, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; and he will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning or crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

v6-7 To the thirsty I will give from the fountain of the water of life without payment. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son.

Revelation 21:8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the polluted, as for murderers, fornicators, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their lot shall be in the lake that burns with fire and sulphur, which is the second death.