

# The Abiding Word

Back To The Bible & Let The Bible Speak

December 4, 2019

Reflections No. 3

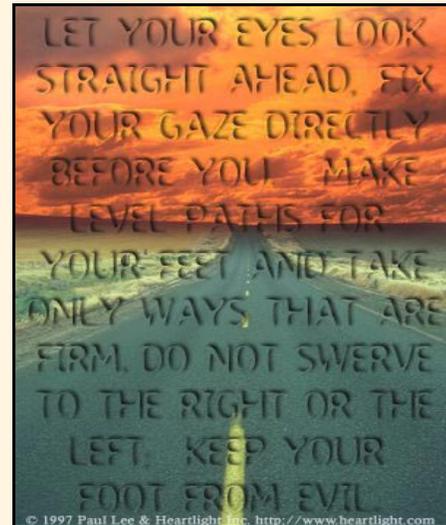
<b>B I B L E</b>	
<b>EMERGENCY NUMBERS</b>	
<b>QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE</b>	
Upset	John 14
Weak	Psalms 18:1-29
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AVAILABLE 24/7   PHONE SERVICE NOT REQUIRED	
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### PROVERB FOR THE DAY

One of the key methods I have learned over the years for dealing with the everyday challenges that living throws my way is to meditate on the Word of God each day as I walk with God.

I have found that reading the Proverb for the day in the morning and reflecting on that Proverb and seeing how I can put it to action in my life as I go through the day has become a great faith builder and strength when trials and conflicts come my way.

Each day has its own Proverb and in one month I have applied all 31 Proverbs ready to do it again the next month. It really works, try it.



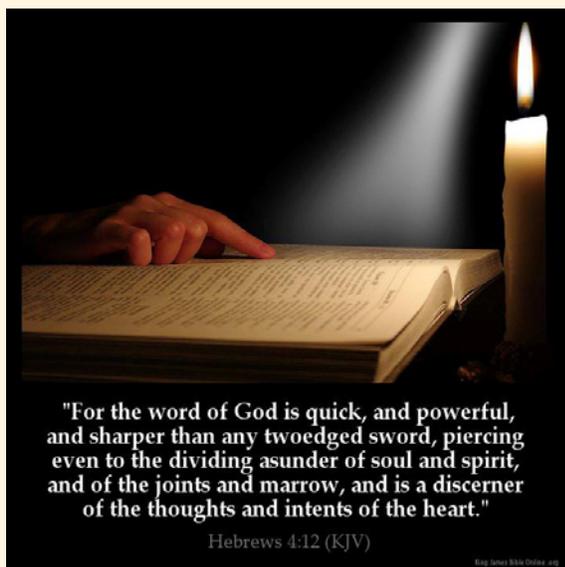
### ABOUT REFLECTIONS

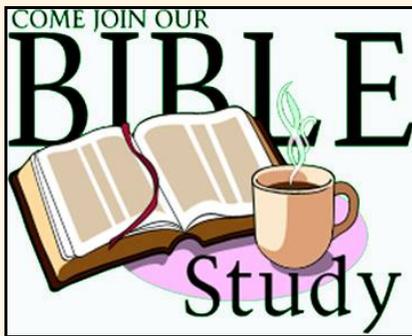
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Each Wednesday evening we host a Bible Study in our home.  
We are currently in the Book of Hebrews.  
Starting January 8, 2020 we will begin a series on the  
Letters of Paul starting with Galatians.  
If you are near and able,  
Joy and I invite you to join our study group.

**And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment, so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who eagerly await Him. Hebrews 9:27-28 (NASB)**

Few of us are able to comprehend the magnitude of death. None of us knows, except by guess, what the sensation is. But there are four facts we must all face: (1) We are growing old; (2) We reap what we sow; (3) We must die; (4) A judgment follows death.

Many a man has been able to joke about death – until he stares death in the face. Then, the inevitability of death and the magnitude of death strikes fear into his heart. The Bible tells us, *“And inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment,” (Hebrews 9:27).*

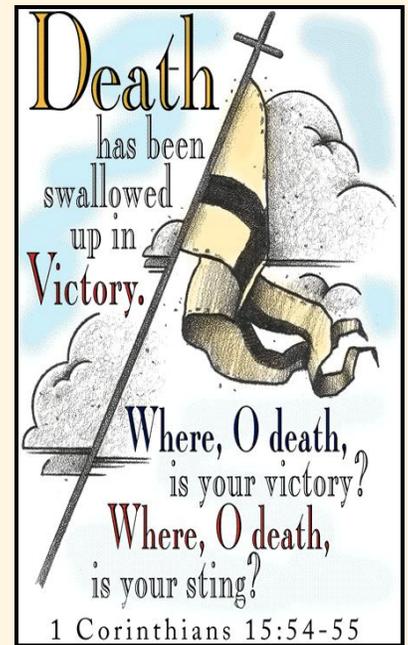
However, to the Christian death should hold no fear. The spiritually mature Christian sees death in a much different light than the world. Death to the Christian is but a bridge to a new and better life in eternity, the achievement, and realization of all the eternal blessings promised by God.

Man has written much about death, but none of his writings approach the Word of God in the Bible concerning this important and far-reaching subject. Let us consider some of the positive aspects of death as revealed to us in the scriptures.

The Apostle Paul wrote to the Thessalonians, *“But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve, as do the rest who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive, and remain until the coming of the Lord, shall not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet of God; and the dead in Christ shall rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18)*

To the Christians at Corinth, Paul also gave this assurance, *“Now if Christ is preached, that He has been raised from the dead, how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain. Moreover we are even found to be false witnesses of God, because we witnessed against God that He raised Christ, whom He did not raise, if in fact the dead are not raised. For if the dead are not raised, not even Christ has been raised; and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.” (1 Corinthians 15:12-19 NASB)*

*"But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?" You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. So also it is written, "The first man, Adam, became a living soul." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit. However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly." (1 Corinthians 15:35-49 NASB)*



The Apostle Peter wrote of the significance of the resurrection from the dead of God's Son, Jesus the Christ and the significance for man, *"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. In this you greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials, that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ; and though you have not seen Him, you love Him, and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him, you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory, obtaining as the outcome of your faith the salvation of your souls. As to this salvation, the prophets who prophesied of the grace that would come to you made careful search and inquiry, seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look." (1 Peter 1:3-12 NASB)*

*"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones." Psalms 116:15 NASB*

### **WE KNOW NOT THE DAY NOR THE HOUR**

Daniel Webster once observed, "One may live as a conqueror, a king, or a magistrate; but he must die a man. The bed of death brings every human being to his pure individuality, to the intense contemplation of that deepest and most solemn of all relations – the relation between the creature and his Creator." We should all strive to live in a state of readiness if the end should come suddenly. When Jesus the Christ was upon the earth, He admonished His disciples regarding readiness, *"For this reason you be ready too; for the Son of Man is coming at an hour when you do not think He will. (Matthew 24:36 NASB)*

This means we must be prepared...not with the superficial things of life...wills, insurance policies, and cemetery arrangements...but ready to meet God. This means we must become children of God and live faithful, obedient lives of service to God.

It is NOW that you should prepare for death, not tomorrow. Tomorrow might be too late, for then you might be dead and it will be then too late to make preparation. *"Come now, you who say, 'Today or tomorrow, we shall go to such and such a city, and spend a year there and engage in business and make a profit.' Yet you do not know what your life will be like tomorrow. You are just a vapor that appears for a little while and then vanishes away. Instead, you ought to say, 'If the Lord wills, we shall live and also do this or that.' But as it is, you boast in your arrogance; all such boasting is evil. Therefore, to one who knows the right thing to do, and does not do it, to him it is sin."*  
(James 4:13-17 NASB)

The Bible teaches that a man can not obtain pardon after death for all will be judged by what they did while they were in the body. *"For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven; inasmuch as we, having put it on, shall not be found naked. For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed, but to be clothed, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — for we walk by faith, not by sight — we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore also we have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."*  
(2 Corinthians 5:1-10 NASB)

*"Therefore knowing the fear of the Lord, we persuade men, but we are made manifest to God; and I hope that we are made manifest also in your consciences. We are not again commending ourselves to you but are giving you an occasion to be proud of us, that you may have an answer for those who take pride in appearance, and not in heart. For if we are beside ourselves, it is for God; if we are of sound mind, it is for you. For the love of Christ controls us, having concluded this, that one died for all, therefore all died; and He died for all, that they who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died and rose again on their behalf. Therefore from now on we recognize no man according to the flesh; even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer. Therefore if any man is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come. 18 Now all these things are from God, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ, and gave us the ministry of reconciliation, namely, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and He has committed to us the word of reconciliation.*

*Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were entreating through us; we beg you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."* (2 Corinthians 5:11-21 NASB)

Most people living today are not prepared to meet the Lord in judgment and so they will be lost unto eternal punishment. The Lord Jesus taught, *"Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it."For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it."* (Matthew 7:13-14 NASB)

*"Beware of the false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly are ravenous wolves."You will know them by their fruits. Grapes are not gathered from thorn bushes, nor figs from thistles, are they? "Even so, every good tree bears good fruit; but the bad tree bears bad fruit."A good tree cannot produce bad fruit, nor can a bad tree produce good fruit. "Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."So then, you will know them by their fruits. "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven; but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven "Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' "And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness.'" (Matthew 7:15-23 NASB)*

But for those who are prepared when they depart this life, they will not be numbered among the lost...they have nothing to fear from judgment.

It is most ideal if early in one's life they have come to believe that Jesus the Christ is the divine Son of God and has made the decision to follow Jesus the Christ. This means repentance, or turning away from the world and sin; this means the confession of your faith in Jesus the Christ before mankind; this means obedience to the Lord in baptism as He commanded. *"And Jesus came up and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. "* (Matthew 28:18-20 NASB)

Then it means the walking and living in a new life in Christ in purity and in concern for the needs of others. It is ideal when this begins early in life, but it is never too late to begin so long as one has a genuine desire to follow Jesus the Christ and is willing to obey Him.

*"What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace might increase? May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it? Or do you not know that all of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death? Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, in order that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life. For if we have become united with Him in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection, knowing this, that our old self was crucified with Him, that our body of sin might be done away with, that we should no longer be slaves to sin; for he who has died is freed from sin. Now if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with Him, knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin, once for all; but the life that He lives, He lives to God. Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.*

*Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body that you should obey its lusts, and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God."* (Romans 6:1-14 NASB)

The only ultimate tragedy is to die outside of Christ. Jesus the Christ died that we might live eternally in heaven, and He invites one and all to come unto Him and to share this eternal blessing with him. John Milton, well said, "Death is the golden key that opens the palace of eternity."

***"Let not your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. "In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you."And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. "And you know the way where I am going." Thomas said to Him, "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me. "***

***(John 14:1-7 NASB)***

