

"Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him: but I will maintain mine own ways before him." Job 13:15 KJV



When illness comes, our first prayer is for healing and comfort. Death is hardly thought of as a blessing, but, for the believer, it is the best that can happen! Modern medicine has made great strides in prolonging the life of the body, while, at the same time, burdening the living with astronomical debt that lingers long after loved ones have passed away. Health insurers charge dearly for meager allowances and then only for those they consider low risk. It all boils down to the love of money and the fear of death. For the believer, death is not a threat, but a portal to bliss; an escape from the “*body of death*” to live forever with their Savior; at last face to face! It may be God’s will we linger and suffer a bit, but “*the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed in us.*” If it is our lot to suffer, we can only hope that our suffering will glorify God and guide others to Him in our short temporal sojourn. We may well pray for healing, but only in that it glorifies our Lord. If healing is not granted, then pray the illness may testify to God’s grace. Then, if death, we should praise Him for ending all pain forever! “*Sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. Them...which sleep in Jesus, will God bring with Him. For the Lord Himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.*” If someone is an unbeliever, then all efforts should be made to present the Truth of the Gospel while they have breath, so alive or dead in the flesh, hope will spring eternal! “*Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.*” Isn’t it strange how we cling to this vale of sorrow rather than embrace the opportunity to view the Blessed face of God and live at His side in eternal pleasure? Life is a sorrowful sojourn, at best, for those that truly walk with God!

When earthly eyes of faith lay closed,
Their death is not as men suppose,
Their soul forever slips away,-
To dwell in God’s eternal Day! ~CGP

The Apostle Paul put it this way; “*For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better: Nevertheless to abide in the flesh is more needful for you. And having this confidence, I know that I shall abide and continue with you all for your furtherance and joy of faith.*” He understood his purpose for lingering was to encourage others and bolster the faith of his brethren in the Lord. When it was finally time, he did not speak of dying, but rather said of his impending sentence of beheading, “*For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*” He knew it was a “*departure*” and was ready. How ready are you? When death comes knocking, will you “*yet...trust?*” Can your faith see past death, rejoice in its arrival, and yet patiently wait for God’s time of departure? Live each day as if it is your last and make preparations for the souls of others as if it’s their last! Christ will return soon: Perhaps today! Are you ready for your departure?

"Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when He shall appear, we shall be like Him; for we shall see Him as he is. And every man that hath this hope in him purifieth himself, even as He is pure." 1 John 3:2-3 KJV