

Death



An alien or stranger is someone who isn't quite part of the world where they live. The culture or customs do not grab their loyalty. They are hearing the beat of a drum somewhere else and that beat makes their feet tap. The Bible says that followers of Christ are "aliens and strangers" in this world. (Heb. 11:13, 1 Peter 1:17)

This means that God's salvation and presence has CHANGED us. So, we **think** differently. We care about different things (from the world). We have different loyalty. And we are not afraid of the same things. A place this "difference" shows up is our understanding and attitude regarding DEATH

Frans Kafka “The meaning of life
is that it stops.”

Helen Keller “Death is no more
than passing from one room into
another. But there’s a difference
for me, you know. Because in that
other room I shall be able to see.”

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

Brother, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. We believe that Jesus died and rose again and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him.

I am not **ignorant** about death

I am not **hopeless** about death

I am not **pessimistic** about death

1 Cor. 15:20 But Christ has indeed been raised from the dead, the first-fruits of those who have fallen asleep.

- I know that a resurrection is possible because it has **already happened**.

1 Cor. 15:26 The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

- I know a time will come when no one will ever **die again**.

1 Cor. 15:32 Let us eat and drink,
for tomorrow we die.

- I know there is a better way to live than despair/anger **about dying**.

Death is brutal, horrible, and sad for everyone. Scripture describes it as a curse and enemy of mankind. Three things stand out in that regard...

...**separation** from family, etc.

...**fear** of the process

...**change** from the familiar to ?

What does God's Word give us
to cope with these?

1. **Assurance** that separation is counter-balanced by reunion

Mt. 22:32 God said, “I am the God of Abraham... Isaac, and Jacob.” He is not God of the dead but of the living.

Jesus was talking about “resurrection” and “heaven.” He said that his audience did not know the power of God. His POINT was that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were currently “living” although they had been dead for centuries. God’s power kept them alive when their bodies died.

Hebrews 12:22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly... You have come to God the judge of all men and to the spirits of **RIGHTEOUS MEN MADE PERFECT.**

Revelation 7:9 After this I looked and there before me was a great multitude that no man could count, from every nation, tribe, people, and language...

2. Understanding that my body is earthbound and when my time comes to leave it, there will be no struggle or problem for me. God will call me, and I will leap to answer that call with eagerness.

1 Cor. 15:50 Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God [because] the perishable does not inherit the imperishable.

Job 14:15 You will call and I will answer you!
You will long for the creature that your hands
have made. **John 5:24-25**... he has **crossed**
over from death to life... the dead will **hear**
the voice of the Son of God and those who
hear will live.

Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil for **you are with me.** Your rod and staff, they comfort me.

**3. The promise that what awaits me is
indescribably better than what I am leaving.**

11 Cor. 5:1 Now we know that if [when] the earthly TENT we live in is destroyed, we have a BUILDING from God, an eternal HOUSE in the heavens not built by human hands.

Heb. 10:34 (speaking of enduring persecution because of faith in God) You joyfully accepted the confiscation of your property because you knew that you yourselves had **better and lasting possessions**. Do not throw away your confidence! It will be richly rewarded.

11 Peter 1:11... and you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.