

**Things To Know Before You Go**  
**Death: The Final Enemy**  
**June 12, 2022**

“Nothing is certain [in life] except death and taxes.” –Benjamin Franklin

“The only difference between death and taxes is that death doesn’t get worse every time Congress meets.”  
–Will Rogers

**Nobody likes to talk about either death or taxes!**

“Aging is a natural, predictable life process that imperceptibly begins at birth, accelerates in a few decades, eventually becomes undeniable, ends in death, and is the dominant factor in the last third of most people’s lives.” –Will Willimon

**Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take.**

**Our days begin with trouble here, our life is but a span. And cruel death is always near, so frail a thing is man.**

**Gathered**

*“...he drew his feet up into the bed, breathed his last and was **gathered** to his people.” (Genesis 49:33)*

**Reassured**

*“I am about to die. But God will surely come to your aid...” (Genesis 50:24)*

**Rested**

*“...rested with his ancestors.” (1 Kings 2:10)*

*“Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Yes,” says the Spirit, “they will **rest** from their labor, for their deeds will follow them.” (Revelation 14:13)*

**Returned**

*“...the dust **returns** to the ground it came from, and the spirit **returns** to God who gave it.” (Ecclesiastes 12:7)*

**Dismissed**

*Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now **dismiss** your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation...” (Luke 2:28-30)*

**Departed**

*“They spoke about his **departure**, which he was about to bring to fulfillment at Jerusalem.” (Luke 9:31)*

*“I will make every effort to see that after my **departure** you will always be able to remember these things.” (2 Peter 1:15)*

“Earth’s exodus is Heaven’s genesis.” –R.C. Foster

**Awakened**

*“Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will **awake**...” (Daniel 12:2)*

*"... We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed..." (1 Corinthians 15:51)*

**"Passed away"**

*"The world and its desires pass away, but whoever does the will of God lives forever." (1 John 2:17)*

*"...we will be with the Lord forever." (1 Thessalonians 4:17)*

"I regard the brain as a computer which will stop working when its components fail. There is no heaven or afterlife for broken down computers. That is a fairy story for people afraid of the dark." –Stephen Hawking

"Atheism is a fairy story for people afraid of the light." –Sir John Lennox

"I have studied religion, and I have concluded that there is some power. [But] we don't understand it." – Kirk Douglas

"The classic Christian answer to the question(s) of death and beyond...these days is not so much disbelieved as simply as not known." –Tom Wright

*"Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope." (1 Thessalonians 4:13)*

**We get to choose how we will live.**

*"...But I have come that they may have life and life to the full." (John 10:10)*

**Human sin:** at the heart of the human problem is the problem of the human heart.

"The line separating good and evil passes not through states, nor between classes, nor between political parties either — but right through every human heart." –Alexander Solzhenitsyn

*"In him there was life, and that life was the light of all people. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overpowered it." (John 1:4-5)*

**But God does some of His greatest work in the dark.**

*So this body that can be destroyed will clothe itself with that which can never be destroyed, and this body that dies will clothe itself with that which can never die. When this happens, this Scripture will be made true: "Death is destroyed forever in victory." "Death, where is your victory? Death, where is your pain?" Death's power to hurt is sin, and the power of sin is the law. But we thank God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. So my dear brothers and sisters, stand strong. Do not let anything move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your work in the Lord is never wasted. (1 Corinthians 15:54-58 NCV)*