



# ***“PREPARING FOR DEATH!”***

*Booklet 4*

*“Effective Christian Living” Series*

*By*

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*THE BIG QUESTION!*  
*#4*  
*"PREPARING FOR DEATH?"*

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1.

"HOW SHOULD I FACE MY INEVITABLE DEATH?"

The ever present possibility of death could and often does send terror to the Heart of Man, but for believers there is the antidote of love and faith to ward off the fear of death. *"Perfect love casteth out fear, for fear hath torment."* (John 4:18) Why fear to die when one knows that physical death is simply the doorway into the presence of the loving Heavenly Father?

Death, for the believers, need not be a fearful thing, wrought with evil. Why? Because Christ has already gone through death and has come through death with 'flying colors'! Christ is the 'first fruits' of those who shall rise from the dead. Death does not have the 'final word'. Life is stronger than death, righteousness is stronger than evil, and Christ is stronger than Satan. Because of Christ's resurrection, Satan is now a 'defeated foe'. *"Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ."* (1 Corinthians 15:57)

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

Not only has Christ decisively won the victory over death for all of humanity in a universal sense, but also the Good Shepherd has promised individually to be with the dying saint to bring comfort. *"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!"* (vs. 4)

Even in the hour of death, there is comfort for the child of God. The Good Shepherd will not forsake his sheep then, but He will gently carry them in His arms through the "Valley of Death!" How durable is the relationship of the Good Shepherd with His sheep? It is so durable that not even physical death can destroy this relationship. The Good Shepherd leads His sheep through the valley of death into the portals of heaven. Paul said, *"For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain!"*

Death for the believer is not a fearful enemy but a kind friend, which allows the believer to enjoy the nearer presence of Christ in heaven.

***TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!***

*"Thank you, God, that those believers who, like sheep, maintain a close relationship to You, the Good Shepherd, will enjoy great protection and abundant provisions. The resources, which You the Good Shepherd make available to the sheep, are most wonderful—Contentment, Peace, Restoration and Guidance. The relationship between the Good Shepherd and the sheep is strong and durable—durable in spite of the threat and eventual inevitability of physical death, durable in spite of the fact of life's many spiritual enemies, durable in spite of the changes and the chances of life's circumstances over a long period of time."*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*It is the purpose of the Good Shepherd (Psalms 23) to take every one of His Sheep to heaven! Allow the Good Shepherd to love you, to sustain you, and to restore you. Learn daily to allow the Good Shepherd gently to lead you into green pastures and beside "still waters".*

*If you follow Him closely in life (obeying His instructions), then it will be 'natural' (and most glorious) for you to follow Him*

*into your eternal home. Death will not be an 'enemy' (a terror), but, instead, a 'FRIEND'!*

2.

*"WILL MY SINS BE REMEMBERED  
AGAINST ME AFTER I DIE?"*

*Inevitable Death! Pardon received and shames removed are wonderful benefits of 'confession of sins'. However, some believers unfortunately are still worried about the future. "Will my sins be thrown in my face at the judgment of God someday?"*

*"Will my hidden sins be exposed in eternity, if I have confessed them to God during my time on earth?" "Will my sins follow me to the judgment bar of God in eternity, like a 'blood hound' tracking blood in the winter snow?" "Will my sins be recited to me before the accusing angels in the hereafter?"*

*TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The Good News Is This: The Sins, which God has pardoned, and the Shame, which God has covered here on earth, will not be brought before you in eternity!*

*If God has hidden your Sins in the 'Sea of His Forgetfulness', when you confessed them here on earth, you can be assured*

*that your Sins will remain buried at the time of final judgment hereafter.*

*"What happiness for those whose guilt has been forgiven! What joys when sins are covered over! What relief for those who have confessed their sins and God has cleared their record?" (Psalms 32:2, Living Bible)*

*Jesus is our 'sin bearer' and He took our judgment for us when He died on the Cross. "My sin - O the bliss of that glorious thought! My sin—not in part, but the whole, Is nailed to His cross, and I bear it no more; Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord, O My Soul!"*

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Loving Heavenly Father, you are the One who, because of your Son's Sacrifice, are able and willing to forgive all my sins (the sins I remember and the sins I don't remember)! The greatest price (the substitutionary death of the Sinless One), was paid for my redemption and salvation! The gift of Salvation to humanity is the most valuable (and costly) gift in the Universe!*

*Thank you, O God, for your gift of forgiveness! I am FREE from the 'bondage of sin' - FREE from guilt because I have confessed my sins to you, and because I have placed my faith (trust) in Your Son as my only Savior!*

*I have acknowledged that there is no one and nothing (including the Church) that can offer me forgiveness from my shameful sinning except Jesus Christ. Only You, O God, through Your Spirit can give assurance to me that my name has been written in the 'Book of Life'!*

*Yes, I thank you for my gift from You, and my present assurance that I have been given eternal life from You (because I have sincerely 'met your conditions'). Then, why am I wondering (with fear) if my sins are going to be held against me at the 'Last Judgment'? For time and eternity, I desire to believe in Your Promise!"*

### ***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*If you honestly confess your sins to Christ and forsake your old ways of life, then you can be assured that God will not remember your sins against you.*

3.

*"DOES GOD INTEND TO JUDGE ME AFTER I DIE?"*

*There Are Three Characteristics Of God, Which Are Noteworthy. God is the one with Perfect Power (omnipotence), the one with Perfect Love (compassion), and the one with Perfect Knowledge (omniscience).*

*"One thing God has spoken, two things have I heard: that you, O God, are strong, and that you, O Lord, are loving. Surely you will reward each person according to what he had done." (Psalms 62:11-12)*

*God is strong to defend the helpless, to strengthen the weak, and to humble the proud. God's power is never carelessly or selfishly used, however, for God's power is controlled by God's love. To have power without love (mercy and compassion) is to cause havoc and to destroy lives (Hitler had great power but with no compassion to control his power, and millions of innocent people were killed as a result). The thought of an all-powerful God with no love is most terrifying!*

*God's power is always love in action, and love in action means both mercies for the repentant and just judgment for the unrepentant.*

*"Surely you will reward each person according to what he has done." (Psalms 62:12)*

### *TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O Lord God Almighty, you who are both the Savior of all mankind and the final Judge of all mankind. I gladly accept your loving mercy while I live on earth—for the forgiveness of all my sins—in order that I may never have to reap your just wrath towards those with UNREPENTED sins at the 'Great White Throne Judgment' in eternity! I thank you, O merciful God, that you have made your 'Plan of Salvation' clear enough so that even young persons can be saved and enjoy the assurance of 'eternal life'. Simple as "A, B, C"!*

*Starting with 'C' - Confess my sins to you, holding nothing back, and telling you that I am deeply sorry for the wrongs I have committed. Next is 'B' - Believe on*

*the Lord Jesus Christ, and trust Him to save me, for only Christ died and rose again. Next is 'A' - Accept Jesus into my heart and life now and every day!*

*As a result of meeting your conditions for Salvation, Dearest Savior, I have a 'right' to claim all of Your many promises! You have promised to 'Forgive me', to 'Heal and Restore me', to 'Transform' me, to 'Reconcile' me to You and to my fellowmen, to 'Enlighten' me to Your eternal truths, to 'Guide' me in making wise decisions, to 'Comfort' me in sorrows, to 'Strengthen' me for life's battles, and to 'Prepare' a place in heaven for me! What a gracious God! No fear of Judgment."*

### *TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*He who is ready to die, is he who is ready to live! Christ's saving arms are outstretched just for you today! "Feel His Embrace Of Love Just For You!"*

4.

"CAN I ENJOY RELEASE FROM PAST  
SINS AND ESCAPE FUTURE  
JUDGEMENT?"

*"I said, 'I will confess my transgressions  
to the Lord' - 'and you forgave the guilt of  
my sin.'" - (Psalms 32:5b)*

*What an unspeakably great joy to know  
that the sins of one's past are totally for-  
given and that the heavy guilt is totally re-  
solved! No longer does one feel the heavy  
hand of God resting upon him, but instead  
the gentle hand of God guiding him!*

*The frown of God's disapproval is re-  
placed by the smile of God's approval. One  
no longer feels his bones wasting away,  
but instead he feels his health being re-  
stored and renewed.*

*His groans of despair are turned to  
songs of praise and thanksgiving. His  
strength is no longer 'sapped by guilt', but  
his strength is renewed by grace.*

*The bondage of sin gives way to the lib-  
eration of love. The bad memories of fore-*

*gone days in sin's evil plots are replaced by the sweet plans of new and anticipated projects of love and mercy.*

### *TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!*

*The one who enjoys the forgiveness of sins is the one who assures himself against punishment and condemnation at the future judgment of God.*

*Like a rising flood of water, which threatens to sweep away an earthly dwelling, so, the impending judgment of God hereafter will be like the mighty waters, which rise to reach and to sweep away the wicked.*

*The 'mighty waters' of God's judgment will not reach the righteous, however, for their confessed sins have already been forgiven, as a result of their sins having already been judged on Mount Calvary when Jesus died for sinners.*

### *TIME FOR A PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"Loving Heavenly Father, you have revealed to me, in your Word (Holy Bible) that there are specific 'steps' which must be*

*taken (as conditions for authentic spiritual conversion). They are:*

*1. AWAKENING (Conviction) - awareness of specific sins that have been committed against God and others!*

*2. REPENTANCE—a godly sorrow for committing sins and a desire to make a moral U-turn.*

*3. CONFESSION—admitting that I (as a sinner) have been wrong regarding my actions and attitudes in life, and that God's way is the only right way to live, and telling God how sorry I am regarding my rebellious life.*

*4. EXPRESSING FAITH in Jesus Christ as the only Savior who is willing and able to forgive my sins.*

*5. SURRENDER of my will to God's will, with a willingness to follow Christ the rest of my life.*

*6. RESTITUTION—asking those whom I have hurt, because of my past sinful lifestyle, to please forgive me, and trying to 'repay' those whom I have deeply hurt.*

*7. OBEDIENCE—respecting Christ's commandments, and seeking to live a life of integrity and love towards everyone—through the indwelling Holy Spirit.*

*Yes, dear Lord, I believe I have taken these serious steps! I claim your forgiveness of all my past sins. In addition, I claim (by faith) assurance that my future is bright, with Your numerous promises of provision and purity and power and presence. You have promised to walk with me for life, and then some glorious day to receive me into heaven.*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*Those who repent now will be spared God's judgment hereafter! But those who spurn God's mercy now will reap God's fiery judgment hereafter! One of the great benefits of forgiveness is security against the future wrath of Almighty God. When the mighty waters of judgment rise, the righteous ones will remain safe. The waters of God's judgment will not reach them!*

5.

*"HOW CAN I MAINTAIN MY FAITH FOR MY ENTIRE LIFETIME?"*

*Because God is good to us, as seen by his abundant provisions for all our human needs, and because God is merciful to us, as seen by his ready forgiveness of all our sins, the believer has a basis for confidence and a source of strength as he battles life's temptations and as he faces life's trials.*

*It is God's goodness and God's mercy that provide the source for the Christian's 'staying power', enabling the believer to stand the 'test of time'. The believer needs not only 'dying grace', but he also needs 'living grace'. Either the passing of time with its routine duties and its occasional crisis can perfect the growing saint or it can undo the lagging believer.*

*Given enough time, many one-time believers will 'fall along the wayside' to take their place amidst the sad company of the backslidden, or given enough time, present struggling and faltering believers will become 'strong in the Lord and in the power*

*of His might' to take their restored place among the stalwart leaders and the pillars of the Church.*

### *TIME FOR A PERSONAIZED PRAYER!*

*"O my God, I know that you are the God of grace and mercy. Without your grace (unmerited favor towards me), I could not begin to sense my need for salvation, nor could I actually be saved from my sins without your grace! Without your grace, I could not live the Christian life for even one day! For the godlike lifestyle is far beyond my own power to achieve. Also, I know that it is your grace alone that accepts me and forgives me when I (an imperfect Christian) fail and falter along life's way (due to my own carelessness and prayerlessness).*

*You alone can empower me through the indwelling Spirit, to 'walk in the light of truth', to listen to the 'Still, Small Voice of the Holy Spirit', to 'Watch and Pray' so I do not yield to Temptation. To hide the Word of God in my heart, so that I might not sin against my God'.*

*To put on all the 'Armors of God' so that I might stand against the powers of evil*

*that seek my destruction. To persevere in faith when all things seem to be against me, to run with patience the particular race that has been assigned to me, to keep my eyes focused on the goal line of my earthly life—which introduces me to my 'Home Sweet Home'! Yes, your grace primarily, and secondarily my faith response to Your Grace initiatives. Thank You!"*

***TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!***

*'What gets your attention gets you!' Every day practice fixing your attention on Christ and His Word (at work, at home, and at play), and you will become more like Christ. Moreover, you will never 'Fall From Grace!'*

6.

"HOW SHOULD I LIVE TO PREPARE  
FOR MY IMPENDING DEATH?"

*"Whom have I in heaven but you? And being with you, I desire nothing on earth." (Psalms 73:25)*

He, who is focusing on God, cannot at the same time focus on anything or on anyone lesser than God does. He, who is full of love for his Lover, cannot covet lesser objects of affection at the same time. 'The things of earth grow strangely dim, in the light of His glory and grace.'

*"Those who are far from you will perish; you destroy all who are unfaithful to you. But as for me it is good to be near God." (Psalms 73:27-28)*

Who are those that are far from God? It is those who (according to Psalms 73:6-11) are proud, violent, self-indulgent, spiritually indifferent. *"...so their pride sparkles like a jeweled necklace, and their clothing is woven of cruelty! These fat cats have everything their hearts could ever wish for! They scoff at God and threaten his people. How proudly they speak! They boast*

*against the very heavens, and their words strut through the earth. And so God's people are dismayed and confused and drink it all in. "Does God realize what is going on?" they ask. "Therefore pride is as a chain about their neck; Violence covereth them as a garment. Their eyes stand out with fatness: They have more than heart could wish. They scoff, and in wickedness utter oppression: They have set their mouth in the heavens, And their tongue walketh through the earth.*

*Therefore, his people return hither: And waters of a full cup are drained by them. And they say, How doth God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"*

These shall perish who are faithless - i.e., those who leave the Lord's presence to pursue the way of worldliness shall be destroyed.

But soul security belongs to the faithful! Drawing near to God constitutes goodness and defines wisdom. Putting one's trust in God rather than in the godless, results in understanding the meaning of life.

TIME FOR A LITTLE INSIGHT!

*"My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever." (Psalms 73:26) Not houses and lands, position and power, or earthly friends are the source of the Psalmist's strength. These things may not be wrong within themselves and indeed may be very good, but they have no ability to strengthen the fainting heart, and none of these can provide soul securities in the hour of physical death.*

*Why covet the things of the world when they leave the heart dissatisfied in time and the soul unsecured in eternity? Death will ultimately and inevitably overtake every person, and, therefore, God alone is able to carry the deathless soul of man safely through the tempests of life and through the gates of death. Man's earthly portion—his material wealth—will be taken from him. We brought nothing into the world and it is certain we will take nothing out of the world but our naked soul!*

*God is the inheritance of the righteousness, and the righteous ones who on earth make God the object of their undivided love*

*and affection, will in heaven have God as their 'portion' forever!*

*God will satisfy all the desires of the righteous forever in heaven. "The days of the blameless are known to the Lord, and their inheritance will endure forever."*  
(Psalms 37:18)

### *TIME FOR PERSONALIZED PRAYER!*

*"O God, I see that covetousness is a universal experience of all mankind. Everyone experiences envy. It is what I covet that determines whether my covetousness is helpful or hurtful, pleasing or painful, God-honoring or shameful. If I envy the health, the wealth, and the power of the wicked, then my envy is evidence that my heart is set upon the wrong values of life. On the other hand, if I covet righteousness, holiness, godliness, wisdom, and the 'smile of God's approval', then my covetousness becomes the incentive to moral discipline, prayer, and spiritual growth.*

*Enable me to love God and to prepare for my death by coveting Your presence daily in all the situations of my life—Sad or Happy! Then my heart will be prepared to meet*

*You when I take my last breath! I Love You! Keep me true to You at all times!"*

*TIME FOR A WARM AFFIRMATION!*

*'What gets your attention gets you!'  
Every day practice fixing your attention on Christ and His Word (at work, at home, and at play), and you will become more like Christ. Moreover, you will never 'Fall From Grace'!*

*Booklet Titles Of  
"Effective Christian Living" Series."*

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