

Water of Life

“...the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life.” - John 4:14

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“LOOKING UNTO JESUS”

DAVID ELDRIDGE

We sometimes sing the song “Looking to Thee” which encourages us to constantly look unto Jesus. The thought for this song is taken from Hebrews 12:2, where the apostle implored that we would be “*looking unto Jesus*” as an example of suffering with patience. There are several things for which one must look unto Jesus. Notice that we look unto Jesus as...

OUR EXAMPLE. In 1 Peter 2:21, we are told that Jesus left “*us an example, that you should follow His steps.*” Jesus’ example teaches us how to act while suffering (1 Pet. 2:20-23). Also, as Jesus never transgressed the commandments of God, He serves as the truest example of holiness and purity (Heb. 4:15). We must look unto Jesus as our perfect example and emulate Him in patience, suffering, spirit, and obedience. Let us look unto Jesus as our example and follow in His steps.

OUR SAVIOR. In Titus 1:4, Paul identifies Jesus as “*our Savior.*” In fact, we find that

Jesus is the one who originated (authored) our salvation and is able to deliver on the promise of eternal life (Heb. 5:9). We, as sinners, are deserving of an eternal death in Hell (Rom. 3:23; 6:23). We must then look unto Jesus for He alone is the one who can save us from eternal death (Acts 4:12).

OUR KING. Jesus is the great King. In Matthew 28:18, He proclaimed that He has been given “*all authority.*” It is no wonder then that Paul, through the Spirit, declared Him to be the “*King of kings and Lord of lords*” (1 Tim. 6:15). Inherent in the fact that Jesus is King is the truth that He has authority over you and over me. Therefore, we must look to Jesus as our King and seek to obey Him in “*everything*” (Eph. 5:24).

Let us see our great need to look unto Jesus from morning to evening every day we are upon this earth. Follow in His footsteps as your example, praise Him as your Savior, and obey Him as your King!

“GREAT PEACE HAVE THOSE WHO...”

DAVID ELDRIDGE

Everyone searches for peace. Men seek for peace with themselves, with God, and with others. The reason why so many individuals are unable to find peace is because they search where it cannot be found — in the things of this world. Jesus stated, *“These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world”* (Jn. 16:33). Until one looks past the things of this world (where there is tribulation) to the things of God, they will never find nor enjoy true peace. The Lord will give peace to those who...

LOVE GOD’S LAW. David stated, *“Great peace have those who love Your law, and nothing causes them to stumble”* (Ps. 119:165). Those who love the law of God are afforded peace by knowing how they might have unity with God. Thus, it is also written, in reference to God’s righteous and true judgments, *“More to be desired are they than gold, Yea, than much fine gold; Sweeter also than honey and the honeycomb”* (Ps. 19:10). Do you love God’s law that you might have peace?

TRUST IN THE LORD. Isaiah penned, *“You will keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on You, because he trusts in You”* (Isa. 26:3). The one who will “trust in the name of

the Lord and rely upon his God” will find in the Lord a “refuge” in the storms of life (Isa. 50:10; Ps. 62:8). This trusting faith in the Lord is developed by hearing and loving His word (Rom. 10:17). Those who trust in the Lord will be kept by Him in perfect peace. Do you trust in the Lord that you might find the peace He can afford?

OBEY THE LORD. Those who obey the Lord are promised peace. Isaiah 48:18 records: *“Oh, that you had heeded My commandments!*

Then your peace would have been like a river, And your righteousness like the waves of the sea.”

If one obeys the Lord, He will grant unto them peace. However, if one

refuses to obey God, they will not find peace as they stand opposed to Him (Jas. 4:4). Are you obeying the Lord that you might have peace like a river?

PRAY TO GOD. The child of God finds peace in prayer. Paul wrote, *“Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus”* (Phil. 4:6-7). Pray to God and find peace, knowing that He cares for you and will answer (1 Pet. 5:7; 1 Jn. 5:14).

“The Lord will give strength to His people; The Lord will bless His people with peace.”

Psalms 29:11

DEATH

DAVID ELDRIDGE

Most of the fear associated with death is due to a lack of understanding and preparation. Notice what the Bible has revealed concerning the subject of death.

WHY DO WE DIE? Some would answer this question by saying that the heart stops beating, the blood stops flowing, and the brain stops functioning. While true biologically, this is not the root cause of why men die. In Eden, God commanded: *“Of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die”* (Gen. 2:17). Adam and Eve transgressed this commandment and were cast out of the garden. As a result, access to the tree of life was cut off and physical death came into the world (Gen. 3:22). Thus, *“in Adam all die”* (1 Cor. 15:22). We die physically because of the sin of Adam.

WHAT IS DEATH? The word death simply means separation. Physical death occurs when man’s life-giving spirit departs from his body (Jas. 2:26). At the creation: *“The Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul”* (Gen. 2:7). In death, *“The dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it”* (Eccl. 12:7). A man dies when his spirit departs his body.

WHO WILL DIE? The reality is: *“It is appointed for men to die...”* (Heb. 9:27). No

matter how strong one may be, *“No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, And no one has power in the day of death...”* (Eccl. 8:8). The rule is, all will die. The only exception will be those who are alive when Christ returns (1 Thess. 4:17).

IS DEATH THE END? Jesus said, *“The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth — those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation”* (Jn. 5:28-29). When the Lord returns, all the dead will be resurrected. After this, Judgment will take place (Heb. 9:27). *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad”* (2 Cor. 5:10). At the Judgment, men will either be granted eternal life in Heaven or be sentenced to eternal death in Hell (Matt. 25:31-46).

CAN DEATH BE VIEWED POSITIVELY? The wise man said that *“the day of death”* is better *“than the day of one’s birth”* (Eccl. 7:1). This is only true for the one who has prepared for death by living for the Lord (Phil. 1:21). Death, for a faithful servant of the Lord, is viewed as a blessing because they will rest from their labors and enter into Heaven (Rev. 14:13; 22:14). Thus, the death of God’s people is precious in His sight (Ps. 116:15).