



## How to End Well

### Summary:

#### Death is not a popular subject.

In fact, most people want to ignore issues concerning their death because the mere thought of it makes them uncomfortable. However, death is an inevitable part of life. Hebrews 9:27 tells us, “It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.”

Of course, God doesn’t want us to be consumed by thoughts of death, but there are some important questions that we should

consider if we want to end well.

Am I ready to meet the Lord? Am I prepared for whatever comes after this life? What kind of legacy do I want to leave behind? Is my life going to count for anything after I’m gone?

#### Key Passage: [Luke 12:15–21](#)

**Supporting Scripture:** *Genesis 2:17; Romans 12:1; 2 Corinthians 5:8; Philippians 2:25–27; Colossians 3:23–24; 2 Timothy 1:13–14; 2:1–3, 13–15, 21–23; 3:1–4, 12; 4:2, 5–8, 16–17; Hebrews 9:27*

### Scriptural Principles:

#### 1 Three kinds of death.

Scripture makes it clear that there are three kinds of death:

- 1) *Physical death*—This is the separation of the spirit and the soul from the body that everyone experiences.
- 2) *Spiritual death*—This is the sentence Adam and Eve received after they sinned against God in the garden of Eden (see Genesis 2:17). Every person inherits the sin nature from them, which means that we are dead to the things of God until we accept Christ as our Savior.
- 3) *Eternal death*—This is everlasting separation from God. As believers, we never have to worry about eternal death because we’ve been made spiritually alive in Christ.

#### 2 What is the right way to feel about death?

As believers with faith in Christ, we have absolutely no reason to fear death—we know that Christ has freely provided salvation for us through His death on the cross. There’s nothing we can do to lose our eternal life because we haven’t earned it—God gave it to us by His grace.

However, maybe it’s not your death you’re worried about. Perhaps you’re wondering how you should feel when your loved ones pass away. Just as Jesus mourned the death of Lazarus and Paul felt sorrow over the illness of Epaphroditus, it’s a natural part of life to grieve the loss of your loved ones. Yet, always remember that you don’t grieve as those who have no hope. Rather, because of Christ’s provision, you can be thankful that one day you’ll see your loved ones again.

#### 3 Ending badly.

Of course, if you haven’t accepted Christ as your Savior then you do have cause to be afraid because there’s nothing you can do to earn your way to heaven. People end badly when they absolutely refuse to make a place for God in their life. God is in control of all things and one day each of us is going to meet Him at the throne of judgment. Are you prepared to meet your Maker?

#### 4 Misconceptions about death.

Often, people don't prepare to meet the Lord because they have distorted ideas about death. Some believe that there is no afterlife—they think that at death their soul is simply annihilated. Others suppose that they'll go to sleep and someday wake up in heaven because God won't hold them accountable for their sinfulness. Still others imagine that their family will pray them into heaven. However, absolutely none of these ideas is biblical. Rather, 2 Corinthians 5:8 assures us, "Absent from the body . . . at home with the Lord." Every person will stand in the presence of the Lord God and will give an account of his or her life. That's why we must make every effort to end well.

#### 5 End well by giving yourself away.

When the apostle Paul knew that his execution was near, he wrote to his young apprentice Timothy to encourage him. Paul knew that as a young pastor in Ephesus, Timothy would face many difficulties; so instead of complaining about being in prison, Paul made the most of his final opportunity to share his knowledge and experience with Timothy. Likewise, we weren't saved to live only for ourselves—we were created to serve God and to give ourselves away to others.

#### 6 End well by living for God.

If you're going to end well, you must live like the apostle Paul did. Paul said, "The time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith" (2 Timothy 4:6–7). Are you living in the will of God—doing what God wants you to do, the way He wants you to do it? Are you accomplishing the assignments He has for you? Paul was confident that he had completely laid down his life for the Lord. Are you?

#### 7 End well by recalling the past with thanksgiving.

The Christian life is a struggle. As believers, we have an enemy who is always trying to tempt and torment us. We deal with opposition, trials, and hardships. However, through it all, we learn to be dependent upon the Lord Jesus Christ. That's why we can rejoice in all of our struggles—because they'll all bring us closer to Jesus if we'll let them.

#### 8 End well by doing whatever God calls you to do with all of your heart.

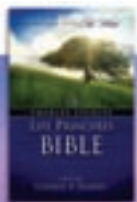
Colossians 3:23 teaches, "Do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men." You are God's servant, so do your best no matter what you're called to do. God may give you a difficult task, but when you stay the course God will do awesome things through you that you can't begin to imagine.

#### 9 End well by believing in the promises of God.

Although Paul was beaten, imprisoned, shipwrecked, stoned, and even left for dead, he never gave up believing in God's promises. Paul never lost his faith. If you're going to end well, you can't go by your emotions, because they'll fail in the face of such opposition. Rather, you must follow the Lord Jesus Christ based on the truth of His Word and in anticipation of the rewards he has stored up for you.

## Conclusion:

How do you end well? You do so by giving yourself away, living for God, recalling the past with thanksgiving, doing what God calls you to do with all of your heart, and believing in the promises of God. You end well by remaining faithful to the One who saves you.



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Knowing that, what will you do with your life? You're either going to finish one way or the other. Will your life be characterized by steadfast, faithful service to God? Or will you waste the life He's given you?

Don't let your last moments be filled with regret. Instead, end your life like the apostle Paul did—with the confidence of a job well done and the joy of knowing that you'll finally see the Savior you've been serving. 🌸

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