

Where Are We Going After Death?

St. John 14:1-3, "Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you onto myself: that where I am, there ye may be also."

Let us hear what God's Prophet has said about it:

We know that man must die, and after that the judgment (Heb. 9:27-28). Death's not a hard thing. It's the judgment after death; that's the bad part. And there what you've done on life, **and how you've influenced others, you'll have to answer for it in that day (II Cor. 5:10-11).**

How much more ought we to set aside every weight and the sin that easily beset us, that we might run with patience this race that's set before us, looking **not** to the creed, to the denomination, **to some other person, but to Jesus Christ, Who is the Author and Finisher of our faith (Heb. 12:1-3).** [1]

Jesus said, I'm going away to prepare a place for you, that where I am, there you may be also." Jesus, therefore, is telling His disciples **that this life is not ended in death.**

Now, saying this was a funeral text... Death sets right before us, and we don't know whether there may be some in this building tonight will not go out of here alive in this physical life. **That's how uncertain it is.** Five minutes from now it could be that young, healthy, young people in this building can be a corpse, in five minutes from now. That is true. And again it could be in five minutes from now, we'd every one be in glory. We just don't know. **That's in the hands of God.** Jesus said He didn't know Himself when that time would be, but that was in the hands of the Father only.

Now, **but He was telling them that after death there is life. Because "I go and prepare a place,"** that is, to receive them, shows that there, He was speaking to them, **that there was a life after this life is ended. And what a consolation that ought to give to all of us to know that after this life is over there is a life that we go into.** And as you get older, that becomes more of a reality to you. As you begin to see the days of your life drawing close, then you begin to pack up closer, **getting ready for that**

great event. It's continuing of this same life in another world, another place. [2]

Now, see, it doesn't make any difference whether you live or die; you come forth anyhow. **Dying is nothing to a Christian. He doesn't die anyhow.** [3]

Let us read St. John 11:25-26:

"Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"

When you die, your body dies. The word "death" means "to separate," just to be separated from your loved ones. But here He said this in St. John 5:24, *"He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life."* [4]

Now, many people as the Adventist people believe that when a man dies that he goes right into the grave and stays there, soul, body, and everything else, until the resurrection. They call that soul sleeping. Well, that's all right. It's all right as long as they believe Jesus Christ and is borned again, that won't hurt them. But now, according to the Scriptures, **that when the person dies, if he's a Christian, if he's borned again, filled with the Holy Spirit, he'll never have to stand in the judgments of God.** See? He goes straight to the Presence of God. And he'll never have to be in judgment, because he's already... (*Phil. 1:21-23; Rom. 8:1-2*).

I don't have to stand for what Christ did for me. Now, I was a sinner, but Christ's judgment... Here's the full thing in a few words: God said, "The day you eat thereof, that day you die" (*Gen. 2:15-17*). That settled it.

Now, God's got to keep His Word. He can't do nothing else but keep His Word, because He's God. Well then, He can't. You're separated from God. And then, you're borned in sin, shaped in iniquity, come to the world speaking lies (*Isaiah 64:6*). **So when you're borned, you're a sinner by nature.** So there's nothing in the world you can do about it. **There's nothing I could do to save myself or you to save yourself. It's what God did for us in Christ** (*Rom. 3:23-26*). See? It isn't, well, whether I think this or I do this, **it's whether He did that.**

Well now, we're in Him. Then He stood God's judgment; He took the judgment (*Isaiah 63:2-6*). And Him, being innocent from sin, knowing no sin, yet was made sin for us... (*II Cor. 5:21*). **So as long as you're in Christ, you are free from judgment.** "When I see the Blood, I'll pass over you" (*Exodus 12:13*). See, see? That's it. The Blood, that frees you...

Now, the sinner's got to stand judgment. And there won't be but this judgment. It's just like a circle or a rainbow around the world of the Blood of Christ. As long as you're in here... If God could look upon the earth in it's condition tonight any **other way than through the Blood of Christ, He would destroy it in a second. He'd have to. Certainly He'd have to.** That's where the judgments are coming.

Now, as long as a man's under here, no matter if the man is a drunkard, and a gambler, and a horrible unbeliever, the mercies of God still atones for him. And a woman, she might be, ever what she might be, a prostitute or whatever, the Blood of Jesus Christ still atones for her. **But the minute that her soul leaves this body and she goes beyond that, she's passed over mercy into judgment. God's already judged her.** That settles it. She's done. She's judged.

You judge yourself by the way you treat God's propitiation there for your sins (*I John 2:2*). You don't judge Him just enough to forgive you. See? If you think He'll forgive you, confess your faults, and He'll forgive you (*I John 1:7-9*).

Then by one Spirit we're all baptized into one body (*I Cor. 12:13*). And as that body was raised up by God, resurrected from the dead, justified, setting at His right hand in power and majesty in heaven, so them that are dead in Christ, are in Christ, **and free from judgment**, and will come forth in the resurrection (*Rev. 20:6; I Cor. 15:51-54*).

Now. **But when we die now, we go directly into the Presence of Almighty God in a celestial body.** If I would meet Brother Neville up there, if we'd both die now, in an hour from now I'd meet him; I'd say, "Greetings, Brother Neville," talk to him.

Look. Jesus told His disciples, taking their Communion, He said, "I'll eat no more of the fruit of the vine until I eat it and drink it with you anew in My Father's Kingdom" (*Matt. 26:29*). Is that right? See? There it is. A justified person, standing in the Presence of God, **goes into His Presence as an immortal being and lives in the blessed realms of peace** until the day that He returns back (*I Thess. 4:16*).

Now, there was a time that the people didn't go into the Presence of God when they died: the justified. That was in the Old Testament. They went into a place called Paradise, and there the souls of the just waited in Paradise (*Eph. 4:8-10*). But Paradise was a place where God kept the souls in like a dreamland, until the Blood of Jesus Christ was shed; for the blood

of bulls and goats would not take away sin; it only covered up sin. **But Jesus' Blood takes away sin** (*Eph. 1:7; John 1:29*).

You notice when He died at Calvary... And on His return, He brought out from the grave those dead saints that had died under the atonement of blood of bulls, and goats, and heifers. And they entered into the city and appeared to many (*Matt. 27:51-53*). How beautiful a picture, oh, if we could paint it just a moment. Look at Jesus when He died.

Here, as I've often said, I believe, in the church here, there's a roll here like; **in here live mortal beings**. And each one is in this great conglomeration of gaiety, of blackness and darkness. Mortals live in here. **Now, they are either influenced from this a-way or from that way**. You cannot be here a spiritual being, sinner or saint, **without having an influence from the underworld or from the above world** (*Ezek. 32:17-24*). If you're influenced from here, you're from above. Your celestial body is waiting up here. But if you're wicked, and hypocritical, and indifferent, your celestial body is down here, regardless of how much you think it's up there; **because the fruit that you bear before people proves where you're from** (*Matt. 7:16*). **So you are here what you are somewhere else. Your life that you live here is just reflecting what your inheritance is when you leave here.** Do you understand?

We are right now (oh, when I think of that)--**we are right now glorified in the Presence of God, born again believers** (*Rom. 8:28-30*). "*For if this earthly tabernacle be dissolved, we have one already waiting in glory*" (*II Cor. 5:1-4*), not somewhere else, **right yonder already waiting now**. And these earthly bodies groan to be clothed upon with that immortality (*Rom. 8:22-23*). Is that right? Sickness, and aches, and pains, and disappointments, and heartaches, and... **Oh, I'll be glad when the old pesthouse is closed up, won't you?** Yes, sir. We can go home. That's right.

We groan to be clothed upon, the Spirit groaning. Oh, when you look and see all the pain around about, all the conglomeration, stink, and sin, and mortal living, and deceit, and everything, I think, "Oh, God, how much longer will it be?"

One of these days I'm going to preach my last sermon, going to lay the Bible down like this, and go home. Oh, what a time that'll be! And when this earthly tabernacle is finished here, **it won't be one second till I'll be in that one yonder; so will you.** Oh, my.

Now, where is that? When do we have it? **Now.** "Those whom He justified, He also glorified" (*Rom. 8:30*). **And do you realize that our glorified, immortal body is waiting in the Presence of Jesus Christ right now, waiting for us to come?**

Do you know when a baby is begotten in this earth, before it's delivered, it's got life. But it hasn't been delivered. And just as soon as that baby is born... It's lungs are all closed up, and it's dead. Its muscles are quivering and jerking. But the first thing, just a little spank or two like that, and he'll catch his breath. What's the matter? As soon as that natural body is being formed in the mother, **there is a spiritual body waiting to receive it just as soon as that baby's born.**

And just as sure as this spiritual body is being born, there is a natural body waiting to receive it as soon as it goes out of this world. See? Vice versa, right back to Eden again, just right back.

Why, death, that just knocks all the sting out of death there is. No wonder Paul could stand and say, "Death, where is your sting? Grave, where is your victory?" He said, "*Thanks be to God Who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ*" (1 Cor. 15:54-57). Yes, friends. This earthly tabernacle be dissolved we already got one waiting, so just forget about it.

Now, to you, friend, if you're a sinner who asked this, God be merciful to you. Yes, sir. You're not only under condemnation now, not here, no. You'll prosper and go on. And that's all through the mercies of God. That's all through the mercies of God that you prosper and do what you do. That's true. But one of these days, **if you're a sinner and your soul slips out, it'll go yonder into judgment and will be condemned. And then you'll be cast away, and you'll be in torment until the day that you are brought back to this earth again** (John 5:28-29). And you will receive an immortal body, an immortal body that cannot die, and will be cast away into outer darkness where there'll be weeping, wailing, and gnashing of teeth (Matt. 25:30). You'll be cast into hell, where the worm never dies or fire is never quenched (Mark 9:43-44), and you'll be tormented through all ages there is to come. Jesus said that. That's a black picture, but it's what the Bible said.

If God so condemned sin and had it cost such a price, what will it be if those unjust spirits could ever be made loose again? We'd have another thing like we've had in the last six thousand years. Is that right? There'll never be an opportunity again.

Now, you say, "Well, I believe that when you go to the grave you go to hell." Your body goes to hell; that's right. "**Hell**" means "**separation.**" "**Death**" means "**separation.**" Your body dies, separates. You go from your loved ones here, but that's not what we're talking about. "It's once appointed unto man to die, then after that, the judgment." (Heb. 9:27).

So when the believer dies, he goes into the Presence of his Maker, his God. And the sinner, when he dies, goes to his destination (Psalm 9:17; Ezek. 31:12-17).

Now, I'm talking now of the elect. But there's some that will come up in the second resurrection, that'll have to stand in the judgment with the sinner to be judged with him. I want to be sure to get that (*Rev. 20:4-6*).

The first that'll take place will be the coming of the Bride. There will be people in the world... You might differ a little with this, but listen close. **Just because that you accepted Christ as personal Saviour, that doesn't mean that you're going in the rapture.** That's for the elect, that'll go in the rapture. There'll be a remnant left here on earth that'll go through the persecution and the great tribulation (*Rev. 12:15-17; Rev. 7:13-17*). The church will be caught up in the rapture (*I Thess. 4:13-17*).

Certainly when we die, if we are in Christ Jesus, we go to be with that great Body yonder, Christ Jesus. If we are sinners, we go to be with that great body of unbelievers; and God said our portion was with the hypocrites, in hell (*Rev. 21:8*). Amen. [5]

Listen what "Malachi 4" has said about the dimensions:

Now, when we come along, we remember that we live here in three dimensions. One of them is **light**, and the other is **matter**. Now, light, matter, and **time**. And our five senses contact them dimensions. Our sight contacts light, our feeling contacts matters, and so forth.

Now, **but we have contact through science, the fourth dimension**, as it was. Because right through this building now come pictures, voices of **radio**, pictures on **television**, that our senses does not contact that, but yet they have a tube or crystal that picks up those ether waves and manifests them. So, you see, right in this building now are live actions of people in the air, live voices. They're here. We know it. They're absolutely the truth. And the only thing you do, they catch it on... I don't understand the mechanics of those things that science has invented, but we know that it proves to us there is a fourth dimension.

Now, the fifth dimension is where the sinner, the unbeliever dies and goes to. The fifth dimension is the horrible dimension.

And when a Christian dies, he goes into the sixth dimension.

And God is in the seventh dimension.

Now then, you see, the Christian when he dies, he goes under the altar of God, right into the Presence of God, under the altar. And he's at rest.

To break it down. When a man has a nightmare, he's not altogether asleep, neither is he awake. He's between sleep and awake, and that's what makes him have a horrible shaking and screaming, because he's not asleep, he's not awake. **And to take that, shows where a man goes when he dies unconverted.** He's lived his time up; he's dead on earth; and he cannot go in the Presence of God, because he's not fit to go there **without**

the Blood. And he's caught. He cannot come back to earth, because his time's finished here on earth, and he's caught between, and he's in a nightmare. See? He can't go in the Presence of God to rest. He can't back, come to earth, because his time's up. He's in a nightmare, **and there he stays until the day of the judgment: a horrible thing to be in.** [6]

In time of death, I've heard people when they knowed they were dying, and things that they kept secret all their life, in desperation they were trying to confess it. See? And trying, "Take this... and... make it right. Go!... Please. Go... Do!" See? In desperation. **They ought to have done that beforehand, not wait till the time of emergency.** "Will you do so-and-so for me?" **The emergency causes desperation when we ought to do it without the emergency.** [7]

Now, no matter who you are, woman, man, boy or girl, whoever you are, Christian or not Christian, minister, deacon, whatever you are, if you'll just believe with your whole heart, for just a moment, and do this much tonight just to let God know that you're sincere.

"Now, look, I'm a Pentecostal," you say. "I'm this," or whatever you are. "I profess to dance in the Spirit. But, Brother Branham, I thought as long as we had that, we had It." You haven't.

If you believe me to be God's prophet, you listen to my Words. **That's a deception in this day. Didn't the Bible say it'd be so close it would deceive the Elected if possible?** (*Matt. 24:24*).

If you danced in the Spirit, still with the things of the world, there's something wrong. You speak with tongues; Paul said, "I can speak with tongues of men and angels, and still not even be saved" (*I Cor. 13:1-3; Matt. 7:21-23*). Uh-huh, both kinds. "I can do all the emotions; I can have faith; I can preach the Gospel; I can give all my goods to feed the poor; I can carry the Word in the mission fields across the world, and still I'm nothing." See? **It's that inside of the inside, brother. Your spirit breaks up when you die; it takes its flight, but your soul lives** (*Eccl. 12:5-7*). [8]

So we do have death under our control through Jesus Christ, Who's overcome death, hell, grave, sickness, sorrows, everything else, triumphed over all (*II Tim. 1:9-10*). And we are now risen with Him, setting in heavenly places (*Eph. 2:4-6*), spiritually speaking, in Christ Jesus with all things under our feet. Even the physical resurrection is under our feet, **'cause we're in Christ.** Now, just keeping it in your mind. See? We have passed from death unto Life. Physical, spiritual, every way, and everything, and **all things belong to us now** (*I Cor. 3:22-23*).

Death is nothing; we got it; it's ours. It can't control me; **I control it.** How? Through Him Who made me an overcomer, **because I've already overcome death.** How did I do it? By believing on Him. See? **Death's in sin, unbelief.** I'm not an unbeliever; I'm a believer. I've raised from that thing, resurrected. And it's the earnest of all my complete physical, spiritual resurrection, everything (*Eph. 1,13-14; II Cor. 1:21-22*). [9]

There's no other thing that could happen to any person, so great, **as to change him from death to Life** (*John 5:24*). A man, if he was dying, physically, and could be healed physically, that would be a great thing, **but nothing so great as when he is spiritually dead and God has quickened him to Life** (*Eph. 2:1-5*). [10]

Oh, people, have you made reservations to change coats? Have you made reservations for heaven? Remember, you must have reservations. You can't get in without them. I'm talking to you in modern language now, that you know. If you go to the hotel and say, "Well, I had..." "Did you have reservations? Well, I'm sorry, everything is filled up." You're out in the cold, because you failed to make reservations. And if you've come to the end of your life's journey without reservations, there'll be no one there to meet you. You'll have to step off into a dark eternity where there will be screaming, and weeping, and wailing, and gnashing of teeth. You must; you can't get into the city (*Rev. 21:1-27*), because you haven't got reservations. You must have them to enter this city where Jesus has gone to prepare a place for you. Remember, you must have the reservations and the garment of salvation on. [2]

Reference:

- [1] "Influences" (64-0215), par. 26-29
- [2] "Things That Are To Be" (65-1205), par. 22-24, 106-107
- [3] "The Sixth Seal" (63-0323), pg. 431
- [4] "Questions & Answers On Hebrews, Part 2" (57-1002), Q-No. 61, COD-pg. 271
- [5] "Questions & Answers" (54-0103E), Q-No. 15, COD-pg. 109-114, 119
- [6] "Present Stage Of My Ministry" (62-0908), par. 21-25
- [7] "Desperation" (63-0901E), par. 46
- [8] "Leadership" (65-1207), par. 316-319
- [9] "The Way Of A True Prophet" (63-0119), pg. 10
- [10] "God Who Is Rich In Mercy" (65-0119), par. 37

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There's coming one with a Message that's straight on the Bible, and quick work will circle the earth. The seeds will go in newspapers, reading material, until every predestinated Seed of God has heard It.
[Bro. Branham in „Conduct-Order-Doctrine“, page 724]