

Are You Afraid to Die?

By Tony Melton

The Bible deals extensively with the subject of death. God designed Christianity to take away the fear of death and help people confidently cope with their final hours upon this earth. The Scriptures assure Christians that Jesus died "to release those who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage" (Hebrews 2:15). Almost everyone has an awful dread and fear of death. Henry Van Dyke wrote, "Some people are so afraid to die that they never begin to live."

Many folks have created defense mechanisms to protect themselves from the anxiety and tension the fear of death produces. Some have train themselves not to think about this "depressing" topic. Others intoxicate themselves with liquor or drugs in an effort to escape the slavery that the fear of death produces. Meanwhile, others immerse themselves in games, television and in everything imaginable to keep the reality of death completely separated from their thoughts.

Are you afraid to die? This fear may be produced by lack of preparation to meet your Creator. If you are unprepared to die at this very moment, then you are gambling with your eternal destiny. Life is very fragile and death is certain. The Bible says: "Man born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He comes forth like a flower and fades away; He flees like a shadow and does not continue (Job 14:1, 2). Our life on this earth is brief, and we only have one opportunity to prepare for eternity. The Bible declares, "It is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment" (Hebrews 9:27). After death, we must stand before God and give and account for the way we have lived. The unrighteous will "go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into eternal life" (Matthew 25:46).

How can you make sure you are ready to die? First, you must become a Christian, a child of God. You can do this by believing in Jesus Christ (John 3:16); by making a decision to stop living in sin (Acts 17:30); by confessing Jesus before men (Romans 10:9,10); and by being baptized for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 22:16; Mark 16:16; Acts 2:38). If you obey these commandments from the heart, God will adopt you into His spiritual family. Then you must continue following God's law until you die. Jesus said, "Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life (Revelations 2:10).