

FOLLOW GOD'S WAY

THE WAY

Jesus died to provide the way.

"God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son" (John 3:16).

"He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (1 John 5:12).

"He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" (Romans 8:32).

CHOOSE THE WAY

Believe, receive, and obey Jesus.

"He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him" (John 3:36).

"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" (John 5:24).

"If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23).

WALK IN THE WAY

Continue following Jesus. Read the Bible and join a group of faithful believers.

Christ "suffered for us, leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps" (1 Peter 2:21).

"They continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine [teaching] and fellowship" (Acts 2:42).

"If ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:31, 32).

"And ye shall find rest unto your souls" (Matthew 11:29).

For additional information or requests contact:

Are you ready to meet God?

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JUST FOR YOU



Is COVID-19 Ruining Your Summer Plans?

Did you have plans for this summer? I did. But now, in a matter of a few weeks, they have begun to evaporate. Everything's on hold until . . . until what? Well, we don't know just what yet.

Millions worldwide had plans; now they are on hold. Many thousands who had plans have them no more; they contracted the coronavirus and lost. More of us are likely to follow.

How quickly life can end! For many, it has been a matter of days or weeks from the time the first problem appeared until the end came. Of course, we all know (but don't think of it often) that life can also be snuffed out in an instant, with no warning.

We like to think, *I'm young. I'm only 20 (or 30 or 40 or 50). I've got years to live.* We generally do not think about our own death. But we *will* die. The Bible says, "It is appointed unto men once to die" (Hebrews 9:27).

You by now have likely considered that your summer plans may change drastically. Have you also considered that your time may end before summer does? And this year it is more important than ever to remember that we will die.

Everything is on hold until . . .

"Why this year?" you ask. Because this year you may die. Whether you took life seriously last year no longer matters so much. Whether or not you are ready to die **today** matters.

It matters because "it is appointed unto men once to die, **but after this the judgment**" (Hebrews 9:27). If death ended it all, if there were no eternity, if you ceased to exist at death, then it wouldn't matter. As the Apostle Paul wrote, then we could rightly say, "Let us eat and drink; for to morrow we die" (1 Corinthians 15:32). In other words, if there is no eternity, live it up, enjoy yourself, and do only what feels good. Forget sin; forget God; forget others—and live only for yourself.

In the Bible, Solomon warns us about thinking and living that way: "Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: **but know thou, that for all these things God will bring thee into judgment**" (Ecclesiastes 11:9).

When you die, you will stand before God Almighty and give an account for the life you lived.

Whatever our summer plans were, the coronavirus has reminded us: life is uncertain. Are you ready to die? Are you ready to meet the Judge?

Pie in the Sky?

Maybe you think Christians are always harping on a future reward and missing out on life now. It seems to you that they promise a "pie in the sky by and by." But you want your pie here and now.

I understand. I have no use for a religion that has no joy here and now. Just think—would an all-powerful and loving God (such as the one Christians claim to believe in) plan a salvation that did not bring complete joy and satisfaction both in the future *and* here and now?

Too many professing Christians claim to be saved and be following God's way, but they go around with long faces, complaining about things they cannot change. Shame on them!

That is not God's way. Jesus said, "I am come that they might have life, **and that they might have it more abundantly**" (John 10:10). Peter, talking about Jesus, wrote, "Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see him not, yet believing, **ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory**" (1 Peter 1:8).

So yes, God promises—and delivers—much more than a future reward. He promises, coronavirus or no, to be with us. "I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee" (Hebrews 13:5).

Until what? *We don't know.*

He promises companionship with others: "There is no man that hath left house, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my sake, and the gospel's, but he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life" (Mark 10:29, 30). Even with social distancing, we who know and love the Lord have each other for support.

He promises rest: "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. For my yoke is easy, and my burden is light" (Matthew 11:28-30). Again, coronavirus or no, we rest in Him.

He promises love: "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).

He promises "no fear." "God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind" (2 Timothy 1:7). With God with us, we do not need to fear.

God promises so much more than I can mention here. Get a New Testament; learn for yourself that God's promises are far greater than "pie in the sky."