

**Sing beforehand:** Versification 19-1:1

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth<sup>i</sup>. Beloved, grace be unto you, and peace, from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ<sup>ii</sup>. By the powerful operation of God the Holy Spirit.

**Amen.**

Psalm 9:1,10

-1-

*With all my heart I thank Thee, LORD;  
Thy wondrous deeds I will record.  
Thou art my joy, in Thee I'll glory.  
With Psalms, Most High, I will adore Thee.*

10-

*Have pity, LORD, my suffering see,  
Thou who from death's gate savest me,  
That I, Thy praise and mercy voicing,  
In Zion's gate may find rejoicing.<sup>iii</sup>*

Nicene Creed

***I believe in one God, the Father Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth, and of all things visible and invisible.***

***And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the only-begotten Son of God, begotten of the Father before all worlds; God of God, Light of Light, very God of very God; begotten, not made, being of one substance with the Father, by whom all things were made.***

***Who, for us men and for our salvation, came down from heaven, and was incarnate by the Holy Spirit of the virgin Mary, and was made man; and was crucified also for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried; and the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures; and ascended into heaven, and sits on the right hand of the Father; and He shall come again, with glory, to judge the quick and the dead; whose kingdom shall have no end.***

***And I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Lord and Giver of Life; who proceeds from the Father and the Son; who with the Father and the Son together is worshipped and glorified; who spoke by the prophets.***

***And I believe in one holy catholic and apostolic Church. I acknowledge one baptism for the remission of sins; and I look for the resurrection of the dead, and the life of the world to come. Amen.***

After the law we sing Psalm 27:4

Law<sup>iv</sup>

***God spake all these words saying:***

***I am the LORD thy God, which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage.***

***I. Thou shalt have no other gods before me.***

**II. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them; for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments.**

**III. Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain; for the LORD will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.**

**IV. Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work; but the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates. For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the LORD blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.**

**V. Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee.**

**VI. Thou shalt not kill.**

**VII. Thou shalt not commit adultery.**

**VIII. Thou shalt not steal.**

**IX. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.**

**X. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's.**

Psalm 27:4

4-

*"Seek ye My face." O LORD, so Thou hast spoken,  
And in response my heart says unto Thee,  
"Thy count'nance do I seek in prayer unbroken."  
Do not, O LORD, now hide Thy face from me.  
In anger turn Thy servant not away,  
Thou who hast ever been my help and stay.  
Forsake me not, for I on Thee rely;  
O God of my salvation, hear my cry! <sup>v</sup>*

Prayer.

- **Doxology:**
- **Worship:**
- **Confession:**

**Supplication (for pardon of sins):**

- **Thanksgiving:**
- **Intercession (for the need of the congregation, the church, authorities, sinful world and appeal to the promises of God)**
- **General supplication:**
- **Illumination of the Holy Spirit (necessary for the ministry of the Word):**

**Amen.**

Psalm 72:6

6-

*The helpless poor he will deliver  
And hear them when they call,  
For he, the great and gracious giver,  
Has pity on them all.*

*He saves them from oppressors greedy  
And hears their anguished cries;  
The blood of all the poor and needy  
Is precious in his eyes.<sup>vi</sup>*

Scripture reading: Matthew 10<sup>vii</sup>

Text: Matthew 10:28,29

**<sup>28</sup>And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell. <sup>29</sup>Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing? and one of them shall not fall on the ground without your Father. Matthew 10:28,29**

We are often worried about death. Each one of us asks the question: what is to become of us when we die.

- Whether or not we will truly rise from the dead, is a question with which we wrestle.
- Or are we perhaps to disappear forever when we are dead and our bodies have decomposed?
- We fear death!

Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ, do not let these things upset you.

In our passage Jesus' disciples also fear death.

- The Lord Jesus sends them to go and preach but He knows that it will go bitterly with them.
- Here He tells them that they will be persecuted and killed, simply because they adhere to Him, and not only them, but also those who are converted by their preaching.
- The brother who does not believe will deliver up to death, his brother who does believe. Even a father will deliver his child and children their parents (verse 21).

The Lord Jesus' disciples are scared to die.

- They are petrified because they have heard that they will be tortured unto death because of their faith.
- Who amongst us does not fear persecution and grief?
- They must be comforted in order to commence with their task.

Then the Lord Jesus says to them:

- Do not fear men and what they may do to you.
- People can kill only your body, but your soul they cannot touch because it falls outside of their reach.

The Lord Jesus' warning is clear: they should not pay too much heed to the safety of their physical bodies.

- It is more important that they have a concern to the welfare of their souls. What is to happen with your soul?
- Here the Lord Jesus addresses His disciples very solemnly.
  - God should be feared at all times.
  - If they do not do their work or, if they give up their faith, He will not only ruin their bodies, but also their souls.
- We have more cause to fear God, that to fear the oppressors who walk the earth.

The Bible often speaks of body and soul. What does it mean? It is actually rather difficult to understand what the Bible means by these words.

- When God creates, He creates all things with a body.
- Plants, animals, but also humans.

As with all created things, also man has a body.

- But there is a difference, because man has more than just a body.
- Man also possesses a soul - that is what he was given when God gave to man of His breath (through his nostrils)<sup>viii</sup>.
- Which means that God created man to live forever.

But we must understand this matter very well:

Man is not composed of first class and second class materials.

- The soul is not superior to the body.
- The body is also not worse than the soul.
- These two together make up man.

So often when people die, one hears it said that such a person's mortal remains are going to be buried.

- It is sin to speak thus, because it implies that the body is inferior. Remains or left overs refers to that which is inferior.
- Which is wrong, because when God created man, He did after all explicitly state that man, who He had made, was very good.

In no respect can it be said that the body is inferior to the soul.

- The proof thereof is that God will again vivify this same body of mine.
- And re-unite it with my soul.
- Thus I will live on the New Earth – my body and soul re-united.

From this it is clear that when the body and soul are spoken of, the Bible means to say the total person as God created him.

Then death comes. Man is created to live unto all eternity – yet we die.

How to reconcile these two?

In Genesis 2:17 we read that death is the punishment for sin<sup>ix</sup>. In Romans 6:23 Paul writes the words:

<sup>23</sup>**For the wages of sin is death;**

- This means that we are paid for the sin that we did.
- Sin was worth so much, that we received death as payment therefor.
- It is a punishment which we receive from God.

Why then do we fear death? Because in actual fact, it is the most terrible thing that can happen to man. Death is destruction in more than one sense.

- In the first instance death plucks us from the purpose with which we were created and from God.
  - That is why the Bible repeatedly states that we are dead in our misdeeds.
- But in the second instance, death is decay.
  - Physical and figurative decay, because body and soul are ripped apart.
  - The Lord made the two to be one, but death breaks down this work.
  - The unity which God created, is thereby severed - separated.

All people must undergo death<sup>x</sup>. For this reason even the Lord Jesus Christ, who was Himself God, had to wrestle with death, before He could ascend from earth back unto heaven.

- Which is also the power of the crucifixion and resurrection: death is not final destruction.
- The Lord Jesus Christ proved it, because He severed the power and hold of death.
  - As man He was crucified and as man He came back from death alive.
  - Because He promised us that we would be raised from death, He Himself came to prove it to us.

The soldiers went to inspect and confirm that He was indeed dead.

- As He was confirmed to have been dead they did not break His bones as was the custom of the time.
- Jesus was buried to finally confirm His death. Then on the third day He simply stood up from death alive.

Now the terror of death has been removed from it for those who truly believe. For this reason the Bible speaks of death in a nice way.

- Deuteronomy 31:16 says death is like sleeping<sup>xi</sup>.
- Isaiah 57:2 says that the righteous who dies will enter peace and that his soul will rest.<sup>xii</sup>

We learn more things concerning death.

- Luke 16:22-23 teaches that immediately after death, we enter either heaven or hell<sup>xiii</sup>.
- In that parable Jesus teaches the people of life after death.
  - He says that there was a man with the name Lazarus. The man died.
  - Immediately God sent angels from heaven to bring him to heaven.
  - There was also a wealthy sinner who immediately went to hell after his death.
  - There is thus no such thing as that dead people remain dead until the last day, or that there is a "safe house" where they go to until the Day of Judgement.

Think also of the robber who was crucified with the Lord. The Lord said to Him:

<sup>43</sup>.... **Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise.**

Herewith Scripture refutes the doctrine of spiritism according to which people have astral bodies, which are contactable after death.

That the saints who have already died, are already in heaven is also confirmed by the vision the apostle John had on the island Patmos.

- In Revelation 6:9 John sees the souls of the saints who passed away under the altar.
- They are not in the realm of the dead and they also do not float about somewhere here on earth<sup>xiv</sup>.
- In Revelation 7:9 he sees in heaven the hordes of those who are saved<sup>xv</sup>. Together with Christ they govern and reign from gold thrones<sup>xvi</sup>.

However, all of this is preliminary until such time as God has avenged Himself over the sins of the earth. Then the verse goes into fulfillment.

- Then God destroys the bodies and souls of those who neglected their duties towards Him, because they feared the world more than God.
- John 5:28, 29 teaches:

**<sup>28</sup>Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup>And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.**

The second resurrection is here spoken of.

- It is this part that is spoken of in Revelation 20:12v when John sees the souls that have died, young and old and when the books are opened according to which all people are judged.

In 1 Thesalonians 4:16 we read:

**<sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.**

Vers 17 continues:

**<sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.**

Here is proven the warning which the Lord Jesus Christ directs towards His disciples in our passage.

- Those who reckoned the fear of the Lord the most important thing when they were on earth – in other words those who died in Christ – are resurrected first.
- They are also immediately taken to blessedness.

But in order to understand the text in its full depth, one must pay further attention to what the Bible teaches about death - there is a first and a second death.

- The first death is when we die on earth.
- Which is the death that all people undergo - those who believe aswell as those who do not.
- It is the death that the disciples would have to suffer when they are persecuted and brought before judges, and are eventually killed.

The second death is when God judges the people whom He raises from the dead.

- Those who are guilty are cast into hell - that is the second death.
  - But the other who died in Christ, do not die this second death.
  - They go to the place of perfect life unto all eternity. Which is heaven.
- The second death is thus when God who has absolute power, sends body and soul into the ruin of hell.

Do you now comprehend the tremendous comfort locked up in the words of our passage?

- The unrighteous suffers the first death with us.
- It is the death here on earth which everyone dies.
- Everyone does not die with the same amount of grief, because those who believe, are persecuted and tormented for the sake of their faith.

But the second death or then hell, has no power over the righteous.

- No, he dies when his days on earth have filled up, but then he lives eternally with God.
- Satan and hell or eternal death has nothing to say to him, or over him.

Listen to also these words of Jesus to His disciples.

**<sup>4</sup>And I say unto you my friends, Be not afraid of them that kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. <sup>5</sup>But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him. (Lukas 12:4 – 5)**

- Do not worry yourself about those who may kill your body here on earth.
- Concern yourself only with doing that which God commands you to do - then you have no fear.
- If you do however neglect your duty, then when you die you do not endure only physical suffering, but your body and soul goes into eternal death, because you did not pay God heed.

But that was not all that Jesus had to say.

- He told them the Lord protects even the insignificant little bird, so that outside of God's will nothing will happen to it.
- How much more then does God protect you who are His children? (Luke 12:6)

The passage guarantees us life, because the Lord Jesus Christ was sent to come and die and to rise from death.

- Not only so that we will no longer go to hell, but also so that we no longer have to fear death.
- He is also in heaven already where He prays for us and prepares a place for us.
- Furthermore the Spirit of God is also with us at all times.

The Holy Spirit is not only with us to lead us throughout our lives. But also to be with us in power and strength, when go through the last moments of our death.

Our lives must attest to the fact that we have no need to fear death.

Our religion must be a proof thereof that due to its sufficient depth, something of eternal life is now already apparent therein.

We will be very wrong and do very wrong if our life and conduct in company is of such a nature that it seems as if we too anxiously cling to this life, because for us, this is the only life.

- We must also not disavow the eternal image of God in us, for the sake of our appearance to the world.
- We must not fear that which can kill the body.
- In our time the world has peculiar standards – and many so-called believers run after those things.
- Let us however rather fear Him who can ruin both body and soul and cast it into hell.

**Amen.**

Closing prayer.

Psalm 91:8

*8-“Because he on My love relies,  
I surely will defend him.  
He knows My Name; thus, when he cries,  
My answer I will send him.  
I’ll come with rescue in the strife;  
To him is honor owing.  
I’ll bless him with great length of life,  
To him salvation showing.”<sup>xvii</sup>*

The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all.<sup>xviii</sup>

**Amen.**

**Dr. M.J. du Plessis**  
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<sup>i</sup> *Psalm 124:8*

<sup>ii</sup> *1 Corinthians 1:3*

<sup>iii</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs009\\_vanderKamp.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs009_vanderKamp.HTM)

<sup>iv</sup> , *Exodus 20:1-17 and Deuteronomy 5:6-21,*

<sup>v</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs027\\_Post.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs027_Post.HTM)

<sup>vi</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs072\\_Helder1980.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs072_Helder1980.HTM)

<sup>vii</sup> <http://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Matthew+10&version=KJV>

<sup>viii</sup> *Isaiah 2:22*

<sup>ix</sup> <sup>17</sup>*But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.*

<sup>x</sup> *What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death? Psalm 89:49*

<sup>xi</sup> *And the LORD said unto Moses, Behold, thou shalt sleep with thy fathers;*

<sup>xii</sup> *He shall enter into peace: they shall rest in their beds, each one walking in his uprightness.*

<sup>xiii</sup> <sup>22</sup>*And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried; <sup>23</sup>And in hell he lift up his eyes,*

<sup>xiv</sup> <sup>9</sup>*And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:*

<sup>xv</sup> <sup>9</sup>*After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;*

<sup>xvi</sup> <sup>4</sup>*And round about the throne were four and twenty seats: and upon the seats I saw four and twenty elders sitting, clothed in white raiment; and they had on their heads crowns of gold.*  
*Revelation 4*

<sup>xvii</sup> [http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs091\\_Helder1972.HTM](http://www.genevanpsalter.com/attachments/GenPs091_Helder1972.HTM)

<sup>xviii</sup> *2 Corinthians 13:14*