



**Not Everything is For Sale
Salvation is a Free Gift Paid for in Blood
Psalm 49**

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Contrary to the beliefs of our culture, everything is not for sale. And the price of one item is so expensive, no one on the planet can afford it.

But someone has already paid the price and then turned around and offered to whoever believes, for free.



And no one believes it because there is Satan the liar busy convincing us that is not possible. In fact you can buy everything and even take it with you.

Job would disagree,

Job 1:21

“He said, **“Naked I came from my mother’s womb, And naked I shall return there. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away. Blessed be the name of the LORD.”**” (NASB 2020)

But the Egyptian pharaohs said wait a minute. They would take that statement as a challenge as when they were buried, they were buried with all their stuff to be used in the next life. To include chariots, boats, food, money, livestock, horses, and some cases, servants. But no one does that anymore, do they? Motor Trend Magazine would tell us to maybe, hold that thought. “Sandra Ilene West, a Texan who departed for the afterlife inside her

1964 Ferrari California. Aurora Schuck, another Cadillac fan and her 1976 Eldorado convertible were craned into a 24-by-12-foot plot dug specifically to accommodate the Caddy in 1989, followed by George Swanson taking his '84 Corvette to the afterlife six years later, and Lonnie Holloway in his 1976 Pontiac Catalina in 2009.” (Hunting 2022)

And please, do not think you can take a stash to bribe God. He cannot be bribed but some have tried. “In a bizarre incident in Uganda, a civil servant directed in his will to bury him with a cash of Shillings 6 million to bribe God to forgive his sins. Deceased 52-year-old Charles Obong – Senior Personnel Officer at the Ministry of Public Service – told his wife to deposit huge amount of money in his metallic coffin, reported Uganda’s Daily Monitor News portal. According to his son-in-law, he would use the money to bribe God on the judgement day to forgive his sins.” (Millichronicle 2016) The family later exhumed the funds.

Deuteronomy 10:17

“The LORD your God is more powerful than all other gods and lords, and his tremendous power is to be feared. His decisions are always fair, and **you cannot bribe him to change his mind.**” (CEV)

The truth of God’s word has not changed the heart of wicked men though who still believe God will grade them on the curve and let them into heaven. He won’t. He really has never changed. The God we see in Genesis is the same God we see in Revelation and the same one we talk to today.

Numbers 23:19

“**God is not like men, who lie; He is not a human who changes his mind. Whatever he promises, he does; He speaks, and it is done.**” (GNB)

Even Jesus talked about those who would approach the Great White Throne as a business proposition and negotiation opportunity.

Matthew 7:21–23

““Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. **On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’**” (ESV)

John 14:6

“**Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.”**” (ESV)



What was the view of Christ on those who are rich in material things?

Matthew 19:23–26

“And Jesus said to his disciples, “Truly, I say to you, **only with difficulty will a rich person enter the kingdom of heaven.** Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich person to enter the kingdom of God.” When the disciples heard this, they were greatly astonished, saying, “Who then can be saved?” But Jesus looked at them and said, “With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”” (ESV)

During the time of David, there was this dichotomy of poor and rich and who was and was not blessed of God. The sons of Korah give us a sermon here in Psalm 49 on the topic those who boast in their riches.

Psalm 49:title–4

“For the music director. A Psalm of the sons of Korah. **Hear this, all peoples; Listen, all inhabitants of the world, Both low and high, Rich and poor together. My mouth will speak wisdom, And the meditation of my heart will be understanding.** I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my riddle on the harp.” (NASB 2020)

I love the way the sons of Korah grab the attention of the audience. Yes, this is indeed to be sung, but it is wisdom, it is a sermon in reality and is designed to provide us instruction for life.

The psalm deals with the issue of death and does so in the context of the rich and powerful versus those who aren't.

First up is the call for those who are listening to pay attention to what the song is about. It has nothing to do with any single station in life, but something to do with all stations and classes.

Literally, all of humanity is to listen. The low and the high or rather the humble with the mighty. The mighty would be those who are in special positions within society and in that day and age, it was all about who you had been born to.

Today, it is still about that unfortunately. Those who are born into families with resources are afforded more opportunities growing up than those who do not have the same level of access.

Here in the west, we tend to downplay the world of the elites, even though they are doing all they can to boast about their so-called power. Some do so with their own reality television shows. I believe there are many who have taken George Orwell's insight from his book *Animal Farm* to heart as they believe they are more equal. “All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.” (Orwell 2023, 104)

Now that I have your attention, what you are about to hear is wisdom and understanding. This is from the Lord. This is what the Lord had laid on the psalmist's heart as he meditated on this and digested it.

What is it that you and I do when we spend time in God's word and meditate on it? We allow the Holy Spirit the time to teach us what He has for us from the truth of God's word (John 16:13). Who is the first person to learn when we wait on the Lord and meditate on His word, we are.

Psalm 49:4

“I will incline my ear to a proverb; I will express my riddle on the harp.” (NASB 2020)

If the Lord has called you to teach His word to others, the first person you teach is normally, yourself. As the Spirit teaches us, we listen.



I learned that lesson from numerous pastors and professors at Bible school. They all said the same thing, if they have not learned what it is first that the Spirit is saying in the word, then how can they be expected to adequately and effectively communicate His word to others. All of us who teach the word have learned and meditated on what it is we are teaching. By the way, if that is not the case, you will indeed know and almost immediately.

There is a place for story telling the teaching of the word, Jesus did that a lot. But when the story is one you have heard multiple times before, has nothing to do with the text, and the teaching has nothing behind it, in other words the Spirit has gone no where near the teaching, that is usually a sign that the speaker, has not taken the teaching of the word seriously. Pray for the one who is teaching, pray for me, that we have all allowed the Spirit to guide us and direct us so that what we have is from Him and not from us.

The goal is simple.

Titus 1:7–9

“For the overseer must be blameless as one entrusted with God’s work, not arrogant, not prone to anger, not a drunkard, not violent, not greedy for gain. Instead he must be hospitable, devoted to what is good, sensible, upright, devout, and self-controlled. **He must hold firmly to the faithful message as it has been taught, so that he will be able to give exhortation in such healthy teaching and correct those who speak against it.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

2 Timothy 2:15

“Make every effort to **present yourself before God as a proven worker who does not need to be ashamed, teaching the message of truth accurately.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Back to the text, now that the psalmist has learned the lesson from the Lord, what His word says, he is ready to teach, to sing for all to hear.

What is about to follow from this announcement point is wisdom. God’s wisdom which has been spiritually illuminated to the author of this psalm and is now to be related to you and me.

Psalms 49:5–6

“Why should I fear in days of adversity, When the injustice of those who betray me surrounds me, Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?” (NASB 2020)

The wisdom being taught begins with a rhetorical question. “Why should I fear?” In our culture today, that is the first place the elites want to take you to, fear. That is the goal of the news media, to instill fear in order to control you. Have you noticed in our culture today that it is the so-called elites who have decided they do not like what we as followers of Jesus Christ have to say; it is because God’s truth never changes. George Yancey continues with this idea.

“Fears of a societal, and possibly governmental, takeover motivate individuals to support attempts to limit the hated religious group. In both anti-Semitism and Christianophobia, we find abundant stereotyping, hatred and prejudice based on often inaccurate interpretations of the religious actions of members victimized by anti-Semitism and Christianophobia. Anti-Semitism has a longer history and seems more likely to lead to violence than Christianophobia may, but my recent research shows far more anti-Christian animosity in contemporary society than anti-Semitism. **Since those with anti-Christian bias are more likely to be white, wealthy and well educated, Christianophobia is likely to motivate individuals with more social power than those motivated by other types of prejudice (i.e., racism, sexism, Islamophobia).**” (Yancey 2015, 21)



2 Timothy 3:12

“Indeed, all who want to live in a godly way in Christ Jesus will be persecuted.” (NASB 2020)

For followers of Jesus Christ in the 21st century, we should not fear those who are busy lecturing us on how we are supposed to live in the culture today. Those lectures come from the news almost daily.

The source of our wisdom and calm in the midst of the lies of the culture is the truth of God’s word backed up with the Holy Spirit actively doing His work of teaching us all things and all of us doing what we should be doing, letting Him do so as we meditate on His word. This is not easy in our world today, but it wasn’t easy at any point in the past either. Craig Keener points this out to us.

“One true prophet who believed another prophet’s “white lie” ended up paying for this error with his life (1 Kings 13:11–25). If we immerse ourselves in what we all can agree is God’s Word—Scripture—we will be much more likely to rightly discern God’s voice when he speaks to us in other ways. **Today we have Bibles, but we often interpret them according to how the rest of the church is living instead of interpreting how people are living in light of the Bible.** We may assume that some commands are not meant to be taken very seriously if no one we know takes them seriously. But what if the problem is simply with the peer group we are using for comparison? **Will you stand firm to make a difference for God in your generation? Even if you have to stand virtually alone? You can stand firm if you know, as God told Jeremiah, “I’m with you to help you” (Jer. 1:19).** (Keener 2025, 44)

But yes, we are indeed betrayed by so called brothers and sisters in Christ everyday. Too many in the church today have a basic Laodicean level of spirituality, which means none, and as they go chasing off after false teachers treating them almost like a false god, they betray us by implying they have spiritual knowledge we can never understand until we believe like they do. In fact, some of them get downright insistent and divisive about it. They may even begin doing things online to lead others to think you actually approve of the false teacher. The sad thing, this isn’t new. But our key to life is clearly stated by Paul.

Titus 3:10–11

“Reject a divisive person after one or two warnings. You know that such a person is twisted by sin and is conscious of it himself.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Romans 1:16–17

“For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written: **“BUT THE RIGHTEOUS ONE WILL LIVE BY FAITH.”**” (NASB 2020)

Let others be ashamed and turn their back on what was once faith in favor of cash and recognition from the world. Katy Perry would be a classic example of this level of apostasy that we see today. In an interview with Marie Claire Magazine in 2013, we discovered that “Perry has left behind her born-again past and finds spirituality through the writing of Eckhart Tolle (The Power of Now influenced the song “This Moment”); practicing Transcendental Meditation (“the best thing I got out of my previous relationship, because it was introduced to me via my ex-husband”); and therapy. “I don’t believe in a heaven or a hell or an old man sitting on a throne. I believe in a higher power bigger than me because that keeps me accountable. Accountability is rare to find, especially with people like myself, because nobody wants to tell you something you don’t want to hear. I actually don’t trust people who start to turn on me because they get scared of telling me the truth. I’m not Buddhist, I’m not Hindu, I’m not Christian, but I still feel like I have a deep connection with God.” (Hoffman 2013) A picture of...

Psalm 49:6

“Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the abundance of their riches?” (NASB 2020)



Absolutely. That is squarely where many of the so-called elites of our world are today. Pray for them to find Jesus. Many know of Him but intentionally have walked away. Other than praying for them to find the Lord, why worry about them or what their pronouncements may be. Really, who cares? One thing we have learned over the past year with many of the darlings of the elites, wealth, riches and awards from the world does not stop someone from dying.

This is where the world is, relying on things that are not permanent and presuming that God will do things their way. Welcome to truth 101.

Psalm 49:7–10

“No one can by any means redeem another Or give God a ransom for him— For the redemption of his soul is priceless, And he should cease imagining forever— That he might live on eternally, That he might not undergo decay. For he sees that even wise people die; The foolish and the stupid alike perish And leave their wealth to others.” (NASB 2020)

Here is the thing, everyone living on planet earth has the same disease, it is called sin. We are all S-I-N positive and due to that, we will all someday, physically die. The death rate is indeed 100%.

There is an exception to that, those who are in Christ at His coming are changed and taken by Him to be with Him forever (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18). That is called the pre-tribulation rapture of the church. The real reality, unless Jesus Christ is in the mix, no one can earn enough to redeem themselves or to redeem another. Not possible. God cannot be bought off.

“Rich people in their sailing boats captured by pirates off the east coast of Africa often escape death when the ransom price for their release has been paid. In ancient Israel it was possible in certain legal cases, to pay a ransom to avoid capital punishment (see Exodus 21:29–30). There are indications later in the writings of the prophets that many unscrupulous judges in Israel would take bribe money from influential rich crooks in cases where the death penalty should have been imposed.” (Eveson 2014-2015, 311-312) God is not interested in bribes, negotiation, good works, or anything else except what His Son has already achieved for us.

Matthew 16:24–27

“Then Jesus said to his disciples, **“If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me.** If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake, you will save it. **And what do you benefit if you gain the whole world but lose your own soul? Is anything worth more than your soul?** For the Son of Man will come with his angels in the glory of his Father and will judge all people according to their deeds.” (NLT)

If we were to walk into the Salvation Store to buy our salvation, how would we do. There will be those who show up at the Salvation Store and will begin touting all the things they have done and all the people they have helped. Look at the things I did with the occasional nod to God. Maybe they even were buried with cash to try and pay for their salvation. Jesus said this about the man at the counter with his money and reputation.

Luke 12:20–21

“But God said to him, **‘You fool! This very night your soul is demanded of you; and as for all that you have prepared, who will own it now?’** Such is the one who stores up treasure for himself, and is not rich in relation to God.” (NASB 2020)

What about those of us who show up with nothing but our faith in Christ?



Ephesians 2:3–9

“Among them we too all previously lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, just as the rest. But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our wrongdoings, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, so that in the ages to come He might show the boundless riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. For by grace you have been saved through faith; and this is not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not a result of works, so that no one may boast.” (NASB 2020)

No one has enough money to buy their salvation, but there is a great deal that has been going on for centuries, but it is limited in time and subject to end at any second. Salvation in Christ. He has paid the full price for us so that we wouldn't have to. All it costs us is to acknowledge our need for it, because we are sinners, we do need to ask Him to forgive us, and then all we do is believe that Jesus paid the price for us by dying on the cross and then walking out of the grave.

Romans 10:8–13

“In fact, it says, “The message is very close at hand; it is on your lips and in your heart.” And that message is the very message about faith that we preach: If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved. As the Scriptures tell us, “Anyone who trusts in him will never be disgraced.” Jew and Gentile are the same in this respect. They have the same Lord, who gives generously to all who call on him. For “Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved.”” (NLT)

Psalms 49:9

“That he might live on eternally, That he might not undergo decay.” (NASB 2020)

The elites of the world, those with serious cash, are working right now to make this a reality. Elements of this are called transhumanism, there is also life extension as well as AI, nanotechnology and bioengineering. Ray Kurzweil and others are working to make this a rather scary reality. Welcome to Beast Tech realized.

“Just as with hormone optimization, though, nanomaterials will allow us to not just restore normal body function but augment it beyond what our biology alone makes possible. Biological systems are limited in strength and speed because they must be constructed from protein. Although these proteins are three-dimensional, they have to be folded from a one-dimensional string of amino acids. Engineered nanomaterials won't have this limitation. Nanobots built from diamondoid gears and rotors would be thousands of times faster and stronger than biological materials, and designed from scratch to perform optimally. Thanks to these advantages, even our blood supply may be replaced by nanobots. A design by founding Singularity University nanotechnology cochair Robert A. Freitas called the respirocyte is an artificial red blood cell. According to Freitas's calculations, someone with respirocytes in his bloodstream could hold his breath for about four hours. In addition to artificial blood cells, we'll eventually be able to engineer artificial lungs to oxygenate them more efficiently than the respiratory system that biology has given us. Ultimately, even hearts made from nanomaterials will make people immune to heart attacks and make cardiac arrest due to trauma much rarer.” (Kurzweil 2024, 262-263)

At the end of the age, through the Beast, or so they will believe, near immortality will have finally been realized. Not really. First is the ravaging of the demon army on those who are not believers where they want to die due to the pain but cannot (Revelation 9:6). This is followed up with the Mark of the Beast and all who do so discover that there are some side effects to taking the mark.



Revelation 16:2

“So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth. **Then ugly and painful sores appeared on the people who had the mark of the beast and who worshiped his image.**” (NET 2nd ed.)

Life extension? Immortality? Not with the Beast in charge. It does not end well for them.

Revelation 19:17–18

“Then I saw one angel standing in the sun, and he shouted in a loud voice to all the birds flying high in the sky: “Come, gather around for the great banquet of God, to eat your fill of the flesh of kings, the flesh of generals, the flesh of powerful people, the flesh of horses and those who ride them, and the flesh of all people, both free and slave, and small and great!”” (NET 2nd ed.)

Zechariah 14:12–13

“But this will be the nature of the plague with which the LORD will strike all the nations that have fought against Jerusalem: Their flesh will decay while they stand on their feet, their eyes will rot away in their sockets, and their tongues will dissolve in their mouths. On that day there will be great confusion from the LORD among them; they will seize each other and attack one another violently.” (NET 2nd ed.)

Jesus Himself tells us of the coming judgment on those who survive and did not believe.

Matthew 25:46

“And these will depart into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”” (NET 2nd ed.)

And for those who reject Christ thinking they can achieve longevity of life and immortality through transhumanism or riches or whatever. Your future courtesy of John.

Revelation 20:11–15

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. **And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books.** The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” (NKJV)

What does the wisdom of God point out to us? The sons of Korah, who have meditated on that and learned from the Lord tell us what those who trust in their riches and station in life to get them in.

Psalms 49:10–13

“**For he sees that even wise people die; The foolish and the stupid alike perish And leave their wealth to others. Their inner thought is that their houses are forever And their dwelling places to all generations; They have named their lands after their own names. But man in his splendor will not endure; He is like the animals that perish.** This is the way of those who are foolish, And of those after them who approve their words. Selah” (NASB 2020)

King Solomon would also talk about this same point. How futile things seem to be without the Lord.

Ecclesiastes 3:19–20

“For what happens to the children of man and what happens to the beasts is the same; as one dies, so dies the other. They all have the same breath, and man has no advantage over the beasts, for all is vanity. All go to one place. All are from the dust, and to dust all return.” (ESV)



And for those who trust in those riches to somehow allow them a pass to this reality of a 100% death rate due to the fall. Not happening.

Ecclesiastes 12:13–14

“The end of the matter; all has been heard. **Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man. For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.**” (ESV)

Years ago when one of the Astors died, some of the eager relatives were waiting outside. When the lawyer came out, they asked, “How much did he leave?” The lawyer replied, “He left it all” He did not take anything with him. (McGee 1997, 758)

That brings right back to the observation of Job that we enter this world with nothing and leave the same way. What is important is who we live for. Self or the Lord. After all he went through, Job had the following observation.

Job 42:2–6

““I know that you can do anything, and no one can stop you. You asked, ‘Who is this that questions my wisdom with such ignorance?’ It is I—and I was talking about things I knew nothing about, things far too wonderful for me. You said, ‘Listen and I will speak! I have some questions for you, and you must answer them.’ I had only heard about you before, but now I have seen you with my own eyes. I take back everything I said, and I sit in dust and ashes to show my repentance.”” (NLT)

The important thing, and Job pointed it out, is to learn this before we depart this life. Job repented of his sin. He was not trusting in his riches or his own righteousness, but he was trusting in the Lord.

Here, the sons of Korah have told us the folly of trusting in riches and the things of this world. Everyone dies, and it does not matter who you are or how smart you might be. At the end of the day, the foolish, those who reject the Lord, perish.

And in today’s culture of approval and likes and wanted to be noticed, which leads into the foolish following of the culture and the things of this world, they too are all foolish. The approval of the words of those who have rejected the Lord and looked to foolish thing for fulfillment and those who follow those words, they both go the same direction.

For the sons of Korah, this was a heavy thought, a rude awakening is coming for many and as such it is a good place to pause and reflect on what we have just been taught.

Psalms 49:14–15

“**Like sheep they sink down to Sheol; Death will be their shepherd; And the upright will rule over them in the morning, And their form shall be for Sheol to consume So that they have no lofty home.** But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me. Selah” (NASB 2020)

Interesting thought here from the sons of Korah, as they have meditated on and reflected on this, the Lord has shown them that those who trust in their riches or on anything other than the Lord for their salvation are no better than sheep preparing to be slaughtered.

They are ready for the slaughter. The grave will swallow them, and the distance between their place of burial and their former mansions will be great. On the other hand, the righteous will come through their suffering and enter a new day. That ‘day’ is not the morning of the resurrection, but the morning that dawns after the destruction of the ungodly. (Harman 2011, 386)



The Great White Throne Judgment is all they can expect since they have received whatever good things they have enjoyed, in this life only. A quick message from the rich man and Abraham.

Luke 16:24–25

“So he called out, ‘Father Abraham! Take pity on me, and send Lazarus to dip his finger in some water and cool my tongue, because I am in great pain in this fire!’ **“But Abraham said, ‘Remember, my son, that in your lifetime you were given all the good things, while Lazarus got all the bad things. But now he is enjoying himself here, while you are in pain.’**” (GNB)

The future for those who have rejected the Lord and instead are trusting in who knows what for salvation, is grim and dark.

This is in contrast with the future for those who follow Jesus, who rely on the Lord.

Psalms 49:15

“But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will receive me. Selah” (NASB 2020)

God Himself has made the ransom payment for us. We can’t pay it, not possible. But Jesus Christ achieved that for us on the cross and declared it to the universe when He said, “It is finished.”

John 19:30

“Therefore when Jesus had received the sour wine, He said, **“It is finished!” And He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.**” (NASB 2020)

Jesus made the declaration and then gave up His spirit. He was in control the entire time.

The word translated “it is finished” is a financial term, τετέλεσται (tetelestai). What Jesus finished was the most universally important act in all creation, our redemption. “One way fully to appreciate the saving significance of Jesus’ cry “It is finished” is to understand that the Greek word tetelestai was used in commercial transactions. It signified that a debt was paid in full. The word would be written on a receipt to show that no more payment was needed; the purchase was complete.” (Kroll 2023, 271)

What that means for us is Jesus is indeed the way and the truth and the life. He is the only way to the Father and as such, there is nothing we can add to or do to further enhance or juice the deal that He has done for us on the cross. It is finished. Our salvation, if we choose to accept it and believe, is finished. All we need do is repent of our sin and believe. There is nothing else to do, it has all been done for us. No money needed. No works needed, just believing.

“He will receive me.” Unfortunately, the English loses the impact of the Hebrew.

The word translated “receive” is יִקָּחַ (yiqqāheni) from the word lqḥ. And it means to take, grasp, seize...to take and go away with...to accept, receive...to take up...to fetch, bring...to take as one’s own property...to take a wife...to take away...(of God) to remove someone.” (Koehler, et al. 1994-2000, 534)

Genesis 5:24

“Enoch walked with God; and he was not, for God **took** him.” (NASB 2020)

2 Kings 2:5

“Then the sons of the prophets who were at Jericho approached Elisha and said to him, “Do you know that **the LORD will take away your master from over you today?**” And he answered, “Yes, I know; say nothing about it.”” (NASB 2020)



We use the picture of Elijah as well as Enoch as a type of the rapture, but the word used here in the psalms is also a take.

Here in the 21st century, we are waiting for Him to receive us, to take us, to remove us in the pretribulation rapture of the church. I never ceased to be amazed at how God hides these things for us to discover in His word.

Psalm 49:15

“But God will redeem my soul from the power of Sheol, For He will take, fetch me, receive us as the bride of Christ, remove us to Him receive me. Selah” (KB Translation)

God, through Christ, has guaranteed that we, like the poor man in Luke 16, will be taken up to dwell with him. In other words, while those who trust in their wealth have their best life now, those who trust in Christ get their best lives later. (Smith and Akin 2022, 341)

Psalm 49:16–20

“Do not be afraid when a person becomes rich, When the splendor of his house is increased; For when he dies, he will take nothing with him; His wealth will not descend after him. Though while he lives he congratulates himself— And though people praise you when you do well for yourself— He will go to the generation of his fathers; They will never see the light. **Mankind in its splendor, yet without understanding, Is like the animals that perish.**” (NASB 2020)

We are in the midst of “award” season. What that means is the elites annually gather together to pat themselves on the back for how they have done with music or film or television that misleads and lies to you and pushes you away from the Lord.

It is no longer about excellence; it is about narrative. Every so often we see a follower of Jesus Christ rise up to be noticed but normally, they wind up being buried in the Satanically approved programming.

Here is the thing, do not be afraid. Yes, it seems that they have a loud and strong voice, but when you start examining those who have been top performers in that area in the past, where are many of them? Dead, buried and forgotten except for the film work they left behind.

For some the legacy is entertaining and even up lifting. For others, why even bother.

The scripture here is totally true. When the person passes away, no matter how much money they have or how well they have performed or how many businesses they have run and on and on. When they die, they are gone and within a generation, pretty much forgotten about except for people like me who are historians trying to understand something we see today and looking to see examples from the past.

Every so often, one will set something up that outlasts them physically, but even over time, that too begins to fade as the memory fades.

The thoughts of the sons of Korah and the wisdom they have provided us is this. Those who love the Lord and follow Him, have chosen to live for the next life that will last forever. Those who are into the things of this world, they live for now.

Even though we believers have chosen to live for the next life, it can bother us when those who live for this life seem blessed and are applauded for how well they have done for themselves). But we must remember the reality: when they die, they will take nothing with them. (Smith and Akin 2022, 342)



Hebrews 9:27–28

“And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, so also Christ was offered once for all time as a sacrifice to take away the sins of many people. He will come again, not to deal with our sins, but to bring salvation to all who are eagerly waiting for him.” (NLT)

John 3:18

“There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son.” (NLT)

Those who are born only once (physically) will die twice (physically and eternally); however, those who are born twice (physically and spiritually) will die only once (physically). Jesus said, “Whoever lives and believes in me will never die” (John 11:26). (Geisler 2004, 124)

Let’s pray.

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