



Heaven- Our Hope

Col. 3:1(NLT) "...set your sights on the realities of heaven"
 Eccl. 3:11(NLT) "He has planted eternity in the human heart."

Hebrews 2:14,15-Since the children have flesh and blood, he too shared in their humanity so that by his death he might break the power of him who holds the power of death—that is, the devil—¹⁵ and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death."

"Stoicism: namely, that the good life is a life stripped of both hopes and fears... Stoicism, in a spirit remarkably close to that of Buddhism, appeals for an attitude of 'non-attachment' toward the things of this world. The Tibetan masters would no doubt have approved of this text from Epictetus: The principal and highest form of training, and one that stands at the very entrance to happiness, is that when you become attached to something, let it not be as to something which cannot be taken away... Remind yourself likewise that what you love is mortal, that what you love is not your own. It is granted to you for the present, and not irrevocably, not forever, but like a fig or a bunch of grapes in the appointed season... What harm is there while you are kissing your child to murmur softly, 'Tomorrow you will die?'"

"... the Stoics represent death as a transition from a personal to an impersonal state of existence(from a condition of individual consciousness to that of a cosmic fragment without consciousness), the Christian version of salvation promises us nothing less than individual immortality. The idea of which is not easy to resist."

"The ideal condition in which to die is one where you have abandoned everything, inwardly and outwardly, so that there should be, at this crucial moment, the least possible longing desire or attachment to which the soul can cling. This is why, before dying, we should free ourselves from all our goods, friends and family." Sogyal Rinpoche, The Tibetan Book of Living and Dying

"...the Dalai-Lama acknowledges, the only way of truly living according to the rules of non-attachment is to follow the monastic life, to be solitary in order to be free, to avoid all bonds."

"The Christian response to mortality for believers at least, is without question the most 'effective' of all responses: it would seem to be the only version of salvation that enables us not only to transcend the fear of death, but also to beat death itself. And by doing so in terms of individual identity, rather than anonymity or abstraction, it seems to be the only version that offers a truly definitive victory of personal immortality over our condition as mortals."

"Christianity-whose promise of the resurrection of the body means that we shall be reunited with those we love after death... I grant you that amongst the available doctrines of salvation, nothing can compete with Christianity." Luc Ferry

"And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope.¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18(NLT)-¹⁵ We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. ¹⁷ Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ So encourage each other with these words."

1 Thess. 2:19 ¹⁹ For what is our hope, our joy, or the crown in which we will glory in the presence of our Lord Jesus when he comes? Is it not you?"

"I know that Christ is all in all; and that it is in the presence of God that makes Heaven to be heaven. But yet it much sweetens the thoughts of that place to me that there are there such a multitude of my most dear and precious friends in Christ." Richard Baxter

Colossians 1:5(NCV) "You have this faith and love because of your hope, and what you hope for is kept safe for you in heaven."

Life after death is NOT our hope, Love after death is