

LOVE
 Without Hypocrisy
 (in the book of Romans)

12 – Rejoicing in Hope (1)

DEATH

God did not create death as a part of human existence.

God created us in HIS image ...

And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.
Genesis 1:27 (NASB)

With a glorious purpose ...


For you made us only a little lower than God, and you crowned us with glory and honor. You put us in charge of everything you made, giving us authority over all things ...
Psalms 8:5-6 (NLT)

Death is ...

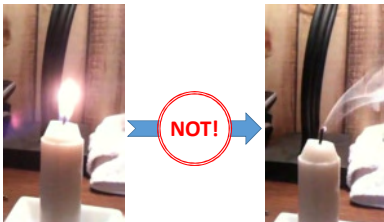
- An unnatural enemy.
- The consequence of *deliberate, willful sin* against a holy, righteous God.
- Something you *earn*: You *work* for it.

For the **wages** of sin is **death** ...
Romans 6:23 (NLT)

READ THIS CAREFULLY!



Death is not the ENDING of human existence.



- Our present life situation will end, but...
- Our existence **CANNOT** end, because we were created in the image of God.

The Bible shows us that death is SEPARATION, the entering into a horrible condition that cannot change.

<p style="color: green;">SEPARATION FROM...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God • People • The body • This present life situation • All that is good 	<p style="color: green;">SEPARATION TO...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unending darkness • Unending excruciating pain • Unending loneliness • Unending thirst • AND PERHAPS WORST OF ALL ...
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Death is SEPARATION... TO...

- **Unending horror**
over one's own sinful and vile *nature*.
- **A terrible awareness**
 - > That *one's own actions* are the cause of all this.
 - > And that it is a condition that *forever cannot change*.

I DID IT TO MYSELF!

"Let the one who is doing wrong continue to do wrong; the one who is vile, continue to be vile..."
Rev. 22:11a (NLT)

**Without hope... Without God...
Only approaching judgment...**



...without hope and without God in the world.
Ephes. 2:12b (HCSB)

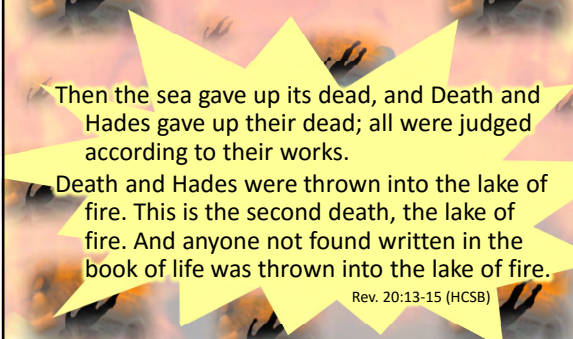
People die once, and after that they are judged.
Hebrews 9:27 (GW)

YES, a *horrifying* judgment

Then I saw a great white throne and One seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from His presence, and no place was found for them. I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books.

Rev. 20:11-12 (HCSB)

And then the Lake of Fire



Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were judged according to their works. Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And anyone not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.

Rev. 20:13-15 (HCSB)

EVEN NOW, we are in the process of dying.

DEATH

IT'S COMING

- **SPIRITUALLY** - Separation from God has *already* occurred.
- **PHYSICALLY** - We are marching toward death (separation from our bodies) and *cannot* stop it.
- **EVEN NOW** – Pain and suffering is but a reminder of what we can expect for eternity... *multiplied by every sin we have chosen to commit*.

IT'S BEGUN

DEATH

YES, EVEN NOW, we are in the process of dying.

DEATH

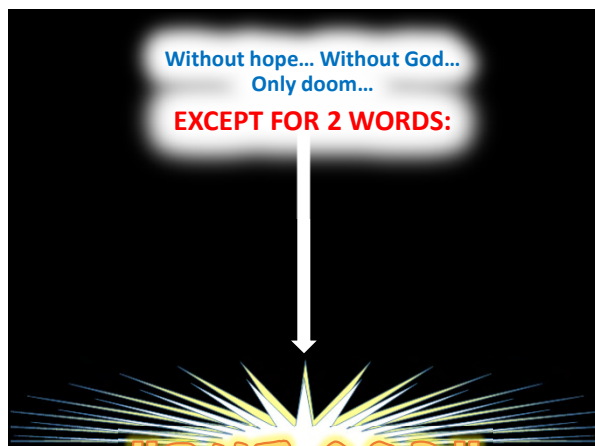
IT'S HERE

- We're *already* dead in sin, and are objects of God's wrath.

... *dead* in your transgressions and sins ...

All of us ... gratifying the cravings of our sinful nature and following its desires and thoughts ... *by nature objects of wrath*.

Ephes. 2:1, 3 (NIV)



Without hope... Without God...
Only doom...

EXCEPT FOR 2 WORDS:

"BUT GOD"

But God, being rich in mercy,
because of His great love with which
He loved us, ...

Ephes. 2:4 (NASB)

"BUT GOD"

... even when we were dead in our transgressions, [God] 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,
in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

Ephes. 2:5-7 (NASB)

WHO can experience this?

ONLY those who TRUST God for salvation ...

For by grace you have been *saved through faith*; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, that no one should boast.

Ephes. 2:8-9 (NASB)

... and who are willing to WALK in his ways.

For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

Ephes. 2:10 (NASB)

Jesus came to die... to destroy death's power over us!

... Christ Jesus, our Savior, who broke the power of death and showed us the way to everlasting life through the Good News.

2 Tim. 1:10b (NLT)

He paid OUR penalty with HIS death on the cross.

[Jesus] said, "It is finished!" Then bowing His head, He gave up His spirit.

John 19:30 (HCSB)

Then, by rising from the dead, he conquered death...

... Christ rose from the dead, and he will never die again. Death no longer has any power over him.

Romans 6:9b (NLT)

... and brought LIFE to all who belong to him.

And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives.

Romans 6:4b (NLT)

**All this... so that, in all things,
we will have victory over death,
through Jesus Christ!**

**"Where, O death, is your victory?
Where, O death, is your sting?"**

The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.
But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory
through our Lord Jesus Christ!

1 Cor. 15:55-57 (NET)

**For those in Christ, new life
has already begun!**

Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is *a new creation*;
the old has gone, *the new has come!*

2 Cor. 5:17 (NIV)

The Bible also describes it as being "born again."

For *you have been born again*, ... through the living and
enduring word of God.

1 Peter 1:23 (NIV)

?
What happened
to all the death?
?

**The SPIRITUAL DEATH
that separated us from God...**

- Replaced by a living fellowship with God!

After all, it is through Christ that we now have
this restored relationship with God.

Romans 5:11b (GW)

And *our fellowship* is with the Father and with
his Son, Jesus Christ.

1 John 1:3b (NLT)

**The PHYSICAL DEATH
that will separate us from our bodies
and everything else in this world...**

- Our physical bodies are the "instruments" or "tools" that we use daily to commit wickedness against God and people.
- Our bodies *must* die, so that they can be saved through death, by resurrection from death.

By his power God raised the Lord from the dead,
and he will raise us also.

1 Cor. 6:14 (NIV)

**Until that time,
we must fight our bodies...**

- Our bodies are inclined to sin. Don't offer it to them!
- We must use our bodies as "instruments" or "tools" for righteousness.

Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as
instruments of wickedness,
but rather **offer** yourselves to God, as those who have
been brought from death to life;
and **offer** the parts of your body to him as instruments
of righteousness.

Romans 6:13 (NIV)

NOW,
because of God...

NOW we have hope.

A hope and a future that the world does not have.

In his great mercy [God] has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade--kept in heaven for you, ...

1 Peter 1:3b-4 (NIV)

A hope made possible by Jesus. He saved us from a life of sin, so that we can have this hope!

... he saved us, ... because of his mercy ... through the washing of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us generously through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that, having been justified by his grace, we might become heirs having the hope of eternal life.

Titus 3:5-7 (NIV)

A life-changing hope that gives us a desire to be like the one who saved us.

Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known.

But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

1 John 3:2-3 (NIV)

- Salvation's changes have already begun!

Once, we were without hope...
without God... with nothing but an approaching judgment to look forward to...

THEN | ...without hope and without God in the world.

Ephes. 2:12b (HCSB)

But now, because of God, we can have hope.

NOW | ... a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ...

1 Peter 1:3b (NIV)

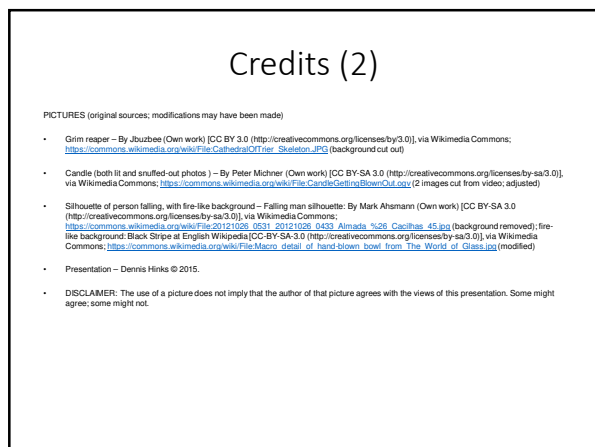
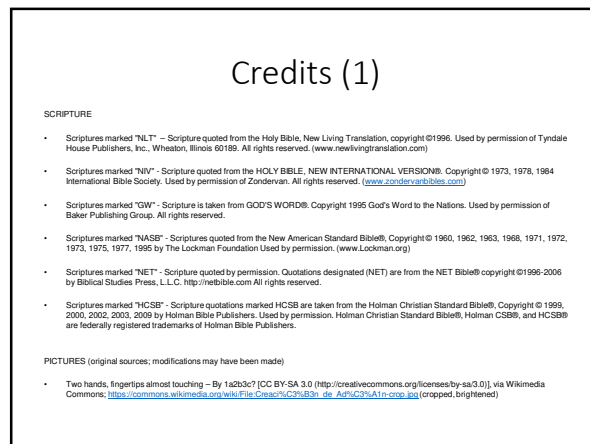
Your Mission...

★ **Pursue this hope!** ★

Take hold of the salvation that comes with following and obeying Jesus.

★ **And rejoice in this hope!** ★

Because he made it possible!



Your Mission...

"Be joyful in hope ..."

Romans 12:12a

Without Christ,
there is *no* basis for hope.

There *no* hope for those who do not know God. Our sin has left us in an *eternally hopeless* condition.

We have a tendency to *not* think of our condition as being this bad. But we are *sinners*. And the only reason we *don't* think that sin is so serious is because we are used to doing it. And doing it. And doing it.

Sin *earns* a horrifying - but well-deserved - judgment; and only *sinners* don't think so.

**WE SIN...
BY NATURE AND BY CHOICE.**

- Nature - Psalm 51:5; 58:3; Genesis 8:21b; Job 15:14-16; Romans 8:7.
- Choice - Romans 1:32; 3:10-18, 23.
- Our only hope is a *new* birth - John 3:3, 5-6, 8; John 1:13; 1 John. 2:29; 3:9; 4:7; 5:1, 4, 18.

☆ **Do you want this hope? Follow Jesus!** ☆

**THE JUDGMENT OF GOD AGAINST US
IS HOLY AND RIGHTEOUS!**

Righteous people know that sin must be judged!

- Those who have seen the holiness of God become *horrified* by sin - Isaiah 6:1-5.
- Those who sin *cannot* stand in God's presence - Psalm 5:4-5; 11:4-7; 34:15-16 (also 1 Peter 3:12).

All creation praises God for his judgments (all except the wicked).

- Those in heaven *praise* God for his judgments - Revelation 16:5-7; 18:19-20; 19:1-3.
- All heaven and earth will *rejoice* when God judges the earth - Psalm 96:11-13.
- It is the *wicked*, those who love sin, who oppose God's judgments! - Revelation 16:8-11, 21; Ezekiel 33:17, 20; see also: Genesis 4:13 (Cain) and Proverbs 30:20 (the adulteress).

**God, the one we have sinned
against, is our *only* source
of a hope we can rejoice in.**

1 Timothy 1:1 - Jesus Christ, our hope.

Romans 15:13 - The God of hope enables us to overflow with hope.

Colossians 1:27 - "Christ in us," the basis for our hope of glory.

2 Thessalonians 2:16 - God our Father has given us good hope (by his grace).

1 Peter 1:3 - God, in his mercy, has given us new birth into a living hope.

☆ **Because of this, we can be "joyful in hope"!** (Rom. 12:12a) ☆