

When You Die Don't Worry About Your Body



WHEN YOU DIE, don't worry about your body... your relatives will do whatever is necessary according to their possibilities. They will take your clothes off, wash you, dress you, take you out of your house and take you to your place of burial. Many may come to your funeral to "say goodbye." Some may even cancel commitments and miss work to go to your funeral. Your belongings, even what you didn't like to lend, will be sold, given away or thrown out with the garbage. Your keys, your tools, your books, your CDs, your DVDs, your photos, your shoes, your clothes, your vehicles, your house...

And rest assured that the world will not stop for you. The economy will continue. In your job, you will be replaced. Someone with the same or better capabilities will take your place. Your assets will go to your heirs... And do not doubt that you will continue to be cited, judged, questioned and criticized for the small and great things you did in life. People who knew you only by your appearance will say; Poor man or woman! Your sincere friends will cry for a few hours or a few days, but then they will return to their normal lives of fun & laughter.

Your animals will be given away and it will take time but they will get used to the new owner. Your photos will hang on the wall or remain on a piece of furniture for a while, but then perhaps they will be stored at the bottom of a drawer. And we will only live in the memory of those who loved us. Someone else will sit on your couch and eat at your table. The deep pain in your house will last a week, two, a month, two, a year, two... Then you will be added to the memories and then, your story is over. It ended up among people, it ended up here, it ended up in this world. But begin your story in your new reality... in your life after death. Your life where you couldn't move with the things from here because, when you left, they lost the value they had.

Good Looks

Notoriety

Comforts

Financial Assets

Property, Houses, Land

Vehicles

Titles & Degrees

Medals, Awards, Trophies

Friends, Spouse, Children, Family

In your new life you will only need your soul. Things of eternal value that you have accumulated here will be the only fortune you will have in the next life.

When you live a life of love for God, love for others and peace with your neighbors, you are amassing your spiritual fortune. That's why you should try to live fully, be content, be sold out for God and be preoccupied with helping others, while you are here, especially helping others to know about the God who rules and reigns in Heaven and who is the final Judge of those who leave this world. Because, "From here you won't take what you have. You'll only take what you gave."

The big question for all of us is: Do we know where our soul is going after this life is over?

Jesus said: *"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."* (John 14:6)

Notice that Jesus did not say you could get to heaven anyway you wish or that all religions lead to heaven or that you only need to be a good person and make sure that your good deeds outweigh your bad deeds. No. Jesus is God. He RULES and REIGNS over Heaven and Earth. It is HIS LAWS that we violate when we sin. The Bible is clear that no one can see the kingdom of God unless they are born again – that is, spiritually born into God's family: *"Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God."* (John 3:3).

The Bible declares in Revelation 21:8 who will go to hell: *"But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."* Those who go to hell are specifically those who do not believe in Jesus as their Savior and who are trusting in their own goodness to get to heaven. Our own goodness can never take away a single sin of ours. God only accepts one and only one payment for sin – the sacrifice of the Lord Jesus Christ on the cross 2,000 years ago. Do YOU see yourself as sinful as God sees you? Are you willing to trust in Jesus alone for your salvation so that on Judgment Day you won't be cast into Hell? Have you cried out to God to have mercy on your eternal soul?

The Bible says: *"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God."* (John 3:16).

"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31)

What are you living for? Are you living for money, fame and pleasure? One day, we will all leave this world behind for good. Because of our sin, we will

meet a holy and just God on Judgment Day. You will want to RUN from Him if you are not ready to meet Him. The Good News is that Christ has paid for the sins of those who trust in him ALONE for their salvation from sin and from its eternal consequences in hell.

“Some trust in chariots, and some in horses: but we will remember the name of the Lord our God.” Psalm 20:7

— Adapted from similar versions of this particular message

The Foreknowledge Of God By Arthur W. Pink

From His Book: The Attributes Of God

What controversies have been engendered by this subject in the past! But what truth of Holy Scripture is there which has not been made the occasion of theological and ecclesiastical battles? The deity of Christ, His virgin birth, His atoning death, His second advent; the believer's justification, sanctification, security; the church, its organization, officers, discipline; baptism, the Lord's supper and a score of other precious truths might be mentioned. Yet, the controversies which have been waged over them did not close the mouths of God's faithful servants; why, then, should we avoid the vexing question of God's foreknowledge, because, forsooth, there are some who will charge us with fomenting strife? Let others contend if they will, our duty is to bear witness according to the light vouchsafed us.

There are two things concerning the foreknowledge of God about which many are in ignorance: the meaning of the term, and its Scriptural scope. Because this ignorance is so widespread, it is an easy matter for preachers and teachers to palm off perversions of this subject, even upon the people of God. There is only one safeguard against error, and that is to be established in the faith; and for that, there has to be prayerful and diligent study, and a receiving with meekness the engrafted Word of God. Only then are we fortified against the attacks of those who assail us. There are those today who are misusing this very truth in order to discredit and deny the absolute sovereignty of God in the salvation of sinners. Just as higher critics are repudiating the divine inspiration of the Scriptures; evolutionists, the work of God in creation; so some pseudo Bible teachers are perverting His foreknowledge in order to set aside His unconditional election unto eternal life.

When the solemn and blessed subject of divine foreordination is expounded, when God's eternal choice of certain ones to be conformed to the image of His

Son is set forth, the enemy sends along some man to argue that election is based upon the foreknowledge of God, and this 'foreknowledge' is interpreted to mean that God foresaw certain ones would be more pliable than others, that they would respond more readily to the strivings of the Spirit, and that because God knew they would believe, He accordingly, predestinated them unto salvation. But such a statement is radically wrong. It repudiates the truth of total depravity, for it argues that there is something good in some men. It takes away the independency of God, for it makes His decrees rest upon what He discovers in the creature. It completely turns things upside down, for in saying God foresaw certain sinners would believe in Christ, and that because of this, He predestinated them unto salvation, is the very reverse of the truth. Scripture affirms that God, in His high sovereignty, singled out certain ones to be recipients of His distinguishing favours (Acts 13:48), and therefore He determined to bestow upon them the gift of faith. False theology makes God's foreknowledge of our believing the cause of His election to salvation; whereas, God's election is the cause, and our believing in Christ is the effect.

Ere proceeding further with our discussion of this much misunderstood theme, let us pause and define our terms. What is meant by 'foreknowledge'? 'To know beforehand,' is the ready reply of many. But we must not jump to conclusions, nor must we turn to Webster's dictionary as the final court of appeal, for it is not a matter of the etymology of the term employed. What is needed is to find out how the word is used in Scripture. The Holy Spirit's usage of an expression always defines its meaning and scope. It is failure to apply this simple rule which is responsible for so much confusion and error. So many people assume they already know the signification of a certain word used in Scripture, and then they are too dilatory to test their assumptions by means of a concordance. Let us amplify this point.

Take the word 'flesh.' Its meaning appears to be so obvious that many would regard it as a waste of time to look up its various connections in Scripture. It is hastily assumed that the word is synonymous with the physical body, and so no inquiry is made. But, in fact, 'flesh' in Scripture frequently includes far more than what is corporeal; all that is embraced by the term can only be ascertained by a diligent comparison of every occurrence of it and by a study of each separate context. Take the word 'world.' The average reader of the Bible imagines this word is the equivalent for the human race, and consequently, many passages where the term is found are wrongly interpreted. Take the word 'immortality.' Surely it requires no study! Obviously it has reference to the indestructibility of the soul. Ah, my reader, it is foolish and wrong to assume anything where the Word of God is concerned. If the reader will take the trouble to carefully examine each passage where 'mortal' and 'immortal' are found, it will be seen that these words are never applied to the soul, but always to the body.

Now what has been said on 'flesh,' the 'world,' 'immortality,' applies with equal force to the terms 'know' and 'foreknow.' Instead of imagining that these words signify no more than a simple cognition, the different passages in which they occur require to be carefully weighed. The word 'foreknowledge'

is not found in the Old Testament. But 'know' occurs there frequently. When that term is used in connection with God, it often signifies to regard with favour, denoting not mere cognition but an affection for the object in view. 'I know thee by name' (Exo 33:17). 'Ye have been rebellious against the LORD from the day that I knew you' (Deut 9:24). 'Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee' (Jer 1:5). 'They have made princes, and I knew it not' (Hosea 8:4). 'You only have I known of all the families of the earth' (Amos 3:2). In these passages 'knew' signifies either loved or appointed.

In like manner, the word 'know' is frequently used in the New Testament, in the same sense as in the Old Testament. 'Then will I profess unto them, I never knew you' (Matt 7:23). 'I am the good shepherd and know My sheep and am known of Mine' (John 10:14). 'If any man love God, the same is known of Him' (1 Cor 8:3). 'The Lord knoweth them that are His' (2 Tim 2:19).

Now the word 'foreknowledge' as it is used in the New Testament is less ambiguous than in its simple form 'to know.' If every passage in which it occurs is carefully studied, it will be discovered that it is a moot point whether it ever has reference to the mere perception of events which are yet to take place. The fact is that 'foreknowledge' is never used in Scripture in connection with events or actions; instead, it always has reference to persons. It is persons God is said to 'foreknow,' not the actions of those persons. In proof of this we shall now quote each passage where this expression is found.

The first occurrence is in Acts 2:23. There we read, 'Him being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have taken, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain.' If careful attention is paid to the wording of this verse, it will be seen that the Apostle was not there speaking of God's foreknowledge of the act of the crucifixion, but of the Person crucified: 'Him [Christ] being delivered by...'

The second occurrence is in Romans 8:29,30. 'For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the Firstborn among many brethren. Moreover whom He did predestinate, them He also called.' Weigh well the pronoun that is used here. It is not what He did foreknow, but whom He did. It is not the surrendering of their wills nor the believing of their hearts, but the persons themselves, that are here in view.

'God hath not cast away His people which He foreknew' (Rom 11:2). Once more the plain reference is to persons, and to persons only.

The last mention is in I Peter 1:2: 'Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father.' Who are 'elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father?' The previous verse tells us: the reference is to the 'strangers scattered,' i.e., the Diaspora, the Dispersion, the believing Jews. Thus, here too the reference is to persons, and not to their foreseen acts.

Now in view of these passages (and there are no more) what Scriptural

ground is there for anyone saying God 'foreknew' the acts of certain ones, viz., their 'repenting and believing,' and that because of those acts He elected them unto salvation? The answer is: None whatever. Scripture never speaks of repentance and faith as being foreseen or foreknown by God. Truly, He did know from all eternity that certain ones would repent and believe, yet this is not what Scripture refers to as the object of God's foreknowledge. The word uniformly refers to God's foreknowing persons; then let us 'hold fast the form of sound words' (2 Tim 1:13).

Another thing to which we desire to call particular attention is that the first two passages quoted above show plainly and teach implicitly that God's foreknowledge is not causative, that instead, something else lies behind, precedes it, and that something is His own sovereign decree. Christ was 'delivered by the [1] determinate counsel and [2] foreknowledge of God' (Acts 2:23). His counsel or decree was the ground of His foreknowledge. So again in Rom. 8:29. That verse opens with the word 'for,' which tells us to look back to what immediately precedes. What, then, does the previous verse say? This: 'All things work together for good to them ... who are the called according to His purpose.' Thus God's foreknowledge is based upon His 'purpose' or decree (see Psa 2:7).

God foreknows what will be because He has decreed what shall be. It is therefore a reversing of the order of Scripture, a putting of the cart before the horse, to affirm that God elects because He foreknows people. The truth is, He foreknows because He has elected. This removes the ground or cause of election from outside the creature, and places it in God's own sovereign will. God purposed in Himself to elect a certain people, not because of anything good in them or from them, either actual or foreseen, but solely out of His own mere pleasure. As to why He chose the ones He did, we do not know, and can only say, 'Even so, Father: for so it seemed good in Thy sight.' The plain truth in Romans 8:29 is that God, before the foundation of the world, singled out certain sinners and appointed them unto salvation (2 Thess 2:13). This is clear from the concluding words of the verse: 'Predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son.' God did not predestinate those whom He foreknew were conformed, but, on the contrary, those whom He 'foreknew' (i.e., loved and elected) He predestinated 'to be conformed.' Their conformity to Christ is not the cause, but the effect of God's foreknowledge and predestination.

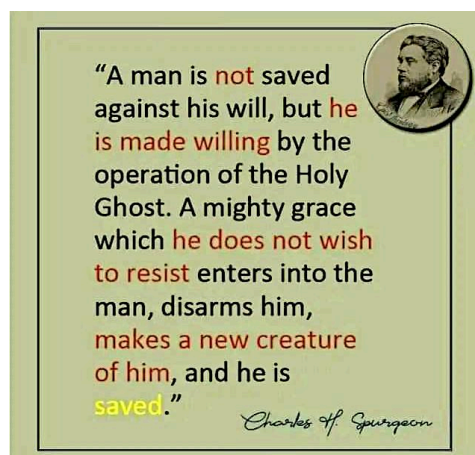
God did not elect any sinner because He foresaw that he would believe, for the simple but sufficient reason that no sinner ever does believe until God gives him faith; just as no man sees until God gives him sight. Sight is God's gift, seeing is the consequence of my using His gift. So faith is God's gift (Eph 2:8,9), believing is the consequence of my using His gift. If it were true that God had elected certain ones to be saved because in due time they would believe, then that would make believing a meritorious act, and in that event the saved sinner would have ground for 'boasting,' which Scripture emphatically denies (Eph 2:9).

Surely God's Word is plain enough in teaching that believing is not a

meritorious act. It affirms that Christians are a people who 'have believed through grace' (Acts 18:27). If, then, they have believed 'through grace,' there is absolutely nothing meritorious about 'believing,' and if nothing meritorious, it could not be the ground or cause which moved God to choose them. No; God's choice proceeds not from anything in us, or anything from us, but solely from His own sovereign pleasure. Once more, in Romans 11:5, we read of 'a remnant according to the election of grace.' There it is, plain enough; election itself is of grace, and grace is unmerited favour, something for which we had no claim upon God whatsoever.

It thus appears that it is highly important for us to have clear and spiritual views of the foreknowledge of God. Erroneous conceptions about it lead inevitably to thoughts most dishonouring to Him. The popular idea of divine foreknowledge is altogether inadequate. God not only knew the end from the beginning, but He planned, fixed, predestinated everything from the beginning. And, as cause stands to effect, so God's purpose is the ground of His prescience. If then the reader be a real Christian, he is so because God chose him in Christ before the foundation of the world (Eph 1:4), and chose not because He foresaw you would believe, but chose simply because it pleased Him to choose; chose you notwithstanding your natural unbelief. This being so, all the glory and praise belongs alone to Him. You have no ground for taking any credit to yourself. You have 'believed through grace' (Acts 18:27), and that, because your very election was 'of grace' (Rom 11:5).

Do Caterpillars Choose To Become Butterflies?



"A man is not saved against his will, but he is made willing by the operation of the Holy Ghost. A mighty grace which he does not wish to resist enters into the man disarms him, makes a new creature of him, and he is saved." - Charles H. Spurgeon

I have to say that I agree with Charles Spurgeon based upon my own personal experience in coming to Christ... which I believe is in line with Ezekiel 36:25-27...

25 Then will I sprinkle clean water upon you, and ye shall be clean: from all your filthiness, and from all your idols, will I cleanse you.

26 A new heart also will I give you, and a new spirit will I put within you: and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh, and I will give you an heart of flesh.

27 And I will put my spirit within you, AND CAUSE YOU to walk in my statutes, and ye shall keep my judgments, and do them.

So are we just robots that God is in total control of? That is a commonly asked question to those who don't seem to understand that the unsaved are spiritually dead. If a robot is PROGRAMMED to kill, wouldn't it have to be RE-PROGRAMMED to NOT kill? Sinners - as a result of the fall of Adam - are programmed to sin, to LIKE sin, to HATE holiness and to want to FLEE from God (the thrice-holy god of the Bible), not programmed to CHOOSE Him and His righteousness and His holiness...

19 And this is the condemnation, that light is come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

20 For every one that doeth evil hateth the light, neither cometh to the light, lest his deeds should be reproved." John 3:19-20

Hence, the REPROGRAMMING of Holy Spirit **regeneration** is required to change the DESIRES of the sinner. A person is either a slave to sin or a slave to righteousness... so it is regeneration by the Holy Spirit - an act of GOD - that makes us want God, makes us want to OBEY God, and makes us want to AVOID sin.

Just as a butterfly wants things that it never wanted as a caterpillar, a butterfly feeds on **nectar** after being transformed from a caterpillar, which feeds on **leaves**. Will a caterpillar CHOOSE to feed on nectar? Absolutely not. Does he even CHOOSE to become a butterfly? Or is his transformation an act of God? Something to think about. — *RM Kane*

Eternal Rest

A Poem About The Loss Of Loved Ones

When our Father calls His children
Heaven's gates swing open wide.
How we stand and long to follow
when our loved ones go inside.

Just a step across the threshold
and they're in the other room
where the sun ne'er cast a shadow
and the flowers always bloom.

Where there's never pain or suffering
neither sorrow nor distress,
where the Savior calls His children,
old and young alike, too bless.

Though our hearts are torn with sadness
and our eyes are dimmed with tears,
we can feel our Savior's presence
and we know our prayers He hears.

So we must not mourn their passing
for our Father knows what's best.
He's just called them home to heaven
and they've found eternal rest.

— *Katheryn Brenner Bode*

Don't Wait - A Poem About Living Regret Free And About Honoring People Now, Not At Their Funerals

When I am dead, forget me friend,
For I shall never know
If o'er my cold and lifeless form
your bitter tears do flow.
That, eloquent with praise, you voice
the debt you owe the dead,
Or with fine phrases speak of love
oh, speak them now instead.

What saints we are when we lie dead
but what's the use to me
of flowers heaped upon my grave
for other eyes to see?
When living, one sweet word of praise

by some kind brother said,
Is worth a thousand epitaphs
so, speak them now instead.

— *author unknown*
