

Five Reasons Death is Gain by John Piper
Solid Joys, desiringGod.org

For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.
(Philippians 1:21)

How is it "gain" to die?

1) Our spirits will be made perfect
(Hebrews 12:22–23).

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.

There will be no more sin in us. We will be done with the inner war and the heartrending disappointments of offending the Lord who loved us and gave himself for us.

2) We will be relieved of the pain of this world (Luke 16:24–25).

The joy of the resurrection will not yet be ours, but the joy of freedom from pain will be. Jesus tells the story of Lazarus and the rich man to show the great reversal that is coming at death.

"[The rich man] called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.' But Abraham said, 'Child, remember that you in your

lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.'"

3) We will be given profound rest in our souls (Revelation 6:9–11).

There will be a serenity beneath the eye and care of God that surpasses anything we have known here on the softest summer evening by the most peaceful lake at our most happy moments.

I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne. They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer.

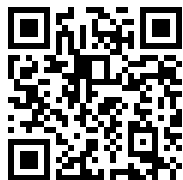
4) We will experience a deep at-homeness (2 Corinthians 5:8).

Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

The whole human race is homesick for God, without knowing it. When we go home to Christ, there will be a contentment beyond any sense of security and peace we have ever known.

5) We will be with Christ (Philippians 1:21–23).

Give



Upcoming
Events



Events
TODAY
Hawfields 3 PM
Chorale Practice 7 PM

12/2 College & Career Lunch
12/7 - 8 LAST CALL Photo
Directory Pictures
12/16 Christmas Music
Program 7 PM

Pastors

Gary Hendrix	Stephen Byrd
Charles Fortner	Robert Fisher
Stu Johnston	Bob Prentice
Andy Dunkerton	Michael Lopes

Service Times

—Sunday School 9:30 am
—Sunday Morning Worship 11:00 am
—Sunday Evening Worship 5:30 pm
—Wednesday Prayer Meeting 7:15 pm

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November 25, 2018

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Morning Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Michael Lopes

Opening Hymn

Doxology

Praise God from Whom all blessings flow; praise Him all creatures here below.

Praise Him above ye heavenly host; praise Father, Son and Holy Ghost.

10,000 Reasons

(Chorus)

Bless the Lord, O my soul, O my soul; worship His holy name.

Sing like never before, O my soul; I'll worship Your holy name.

The sun comes up, it's a new day dawning,

it's time to sing Your song again.

Whatever may pass, and whatever lies before me,

let me be singing when the evening comes. (Chorus)

You're rich in love and You're slow to anger.

Your name is great and Your heart is kind.

For all Your goodness, I will keep on singing;

ten thousand reasons for my heart to find. (Chorus)

And on that day, when my strength is failing,

the end draws near, and my time has come;

still, my soul will sing Your praise unending

ten thousand years, and then forever more! (Chorus 2x)

I'll worship Your holy name, I'll worship Your holy name.

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Scripture Reading

John 13:31-14:14, page 900

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

#27 Great is Thy Faithfulness

Preparatory

Jesus, Thank You

The mystery of the cross I cannot comprehend, the agonies of Calvary.

You, the perfect Holy One, crushed Your Son, drank the bitter cup reserved for me.

(Chorus) **Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.**

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

By Your perfect sacrifice I've been brought near.

Your enemy You've made Your friend.

Pouring out the riches of Your glorious grace,

Your mercy and Your kindness know no end.

(Chorus) **Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.**

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank---

Your blood has washed away my sin. Jesus, thank You.

The Father's wrath completely satisfied, Jesus, thank You.

Once Your enemy, now seated at Your table, Jesus, thank You.

(Bridge) **Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. Lover of my soul,**

I want to live for You.

Lover of my soul, I want to live for You. (Final Chorus, 1 x)

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Sermon

Pastor Stu Johnston

Evening Worship

Call to Worship

Pastor Charles Fortner

Opening Hymn

#535 How Good It Is

Scripture Reading

1 Kings 19, page 301

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory

My Heart is Filled with Thankfulness

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who bore my pain;

Who plumbed the depths of my disgrace and gave me life again;

Who crushed my curse of sinfulness and clothed me with His light-

And wrote His law of righteousness with pow'r upon my heart.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who walks beside;

Who floods my weaknesses with strength and causes fears to fly.

Whose ev'ry promise is enough for ev'ry step I take.

Sustaining me with arms of love and crowning me with grace.

My heart is filled with thankfulness to Him who reigns above;

Whose wisdom is my perfect peace, whose ev'ry thought is love.

For ev'ry day I have on earth is given by the King.

So I will give my life, my all, to love and follow Him.

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Preparatory

A Hymn of Thanksgiving

I thank You, Lord, for Your sov'reign goodness,

the mercy You've shown me, Your glorious church.

I thank You, Lord, for justification, divine contemplation,

the comfort and goodness and truth of Your Word.

I thank You, Lord, for the joys of communion,

of table and closet, the sweetness of prayer.

I thank You, Lord, for the saints gone before us, the heavenly chorus,

and future rejoicing in "The LORD who is There."

(Chorus) **Surely goodness and mercy follow me all of my days---
and I will dwell in the house of the Lord, forever and ever, Amen.**

I thank You, Lord, for each precious baby,

the blessings of children, the pleasures of home.

I thank You, Lord, for opening bare wombs, for conquering the tomb,

the promise of reaping from tears we have sown.

I thank You, Lord, for corporate mercies,

the work of Your Spirit, the gifts we employ.

I thank You, Lord, for heavenly glimpses, for all that Your Word says,

the giving of thanks with Your people in joy. (Chorus)

I thank You, Lord, for restoring the lost years,

for bottling my tears, renewing my soul.

I thank You, Lord, for healing diseases, salvation in Jesus,

for each wand'ring sheep that's brought back to the fold.

I thank You, Lord, for the trials you have brought me,

the patience you've taught me in suff'ring and loss.

I thank You, Lord, for the hope that You give me, that You'll never leave me,

the work of redemption, for gold from the dross. (Chorus)

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Sermon

Pastor Stephen Byrd