

dec 2

will he live again

"if a man dies, shall he live again?" job 14:14

in the midst of his great difficulties, job found hope in his confident expectation that he would see God in the next life. in heaven, we will never see a hospital; there will be no more sickness. we will see no more funeral homes; there will be no more death. we will see no more counseling centers; there will be no more depression, heartache, or mental illness. we will see no more boxes of tissues sitting around for there will be no more tears. and whatever takes the joy out of life for you will be gone forever from those of us who can say, "i know my redeemer lives." job 19:25

those who have placed their hope in Christ as their Redeemer, will live with Him in heaven forever. for the believer, death is not about leaving home. it's about going home. home is not a place, but a person. "therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness" 2 pet 3:11

we are all too ready to proclaim we are all sinners saved by grace, and that is most certainly true. but - that doesn't mean that we are to stay sinners forever and there be no visible difference from a believer and an unbeliever.

faith alone is the channel of God's saving grace, but the proof of faith is our good works. when the apostle

paul spoke of works, he was generally speaking of the works of the law, like observing the sabbath. when the apostle james spoke of works, he was referring to the fruit of genuine faith. james's argument is for those who adhere to the cheap faith that says, "i am saved and under grace, so i can live any way i desire."

first and foremost, if one really loves God and is truly saved, the conviction of the Spirit alone would have them avoid wrong doing as they would the plague. otherwise, perhaps you have believed in vain. (see 1 cor 15:2) love cannot intentionally wound that love without feeling the pain as much.

it's possible to have no faith and no works. it's also possible to have works and no faith. but it's impossible to have true saving faith and no works. biblical christianity is not about faith or works either. salvation begins with faith alone, but genuine christianity is about a faith that works.

Christ did not die that we could continue to wallow in our fleshly desires, freed from the repercussions like others deserving also. His objection is to permeate our flesh with spirit; with Holy Spirit. "and do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God." rom 12:2

in the old testament He says it this way, "and when I passed by you and saw you struggling in your own blood, I said to you in your blood, 'live!' yes, I said to you in your blood, 'live!' eze 16:6 He want to lift us up out of our filth and flesh to dwell in His holy

presence so we may live.

show me. show the world. most of the world is waiting to see a faith that works; a faith in action.

"therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new." 2 cor 5:17 i have a besetting sin that accompanies me everyday, but the battle has not waned or the repentance subsided. i trust my Lord to get me there!

the proof is not in what you say, but in what you do and how you do it. then, and only then, may we confidently proclaim, "my beloved is mine, and i am His." sos 2:16 then, and only then, will we be assured of where we will live again. (if one considers living without God any kind of life.)

we will be going home. again, home is not really a place, it is a person... our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. is it no wonder we call Him our "Blessed Hope?" and i believe that blessed hope is at the very door, waiting for us to cross the threshold. and yes, it is His grace that will carry us over that threshold. whether you believe in the soon coming rapture or not, we may all agree on this: "now our salvation is nearer than when we first believed." rom 13:11 maranatha!!!