

Indio Informer

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A Blessed Rest

Mike Johnson

Revelation 14:13 says, *“Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, ‘Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’ ‘Yes,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.’”*

The word “blessed” means “happy.” There is an undeniable sense in which death brings sorrow. However, for those who “die in the Lord,” death, in a sense, can be regarded as a happy occasion. Heaven is a place of joy, rest, and peace, and we will experience this for eternity.

How do our “works” follow us? Consider two senses. First, if an individual lives a faithful Christian life, the positive impact of this person’s life continues after death. In Hebrews 11:4, we learn that Able, although dead, continues to speak. Also, Peter spoke of his approaching death in the first chapter of 2 Peter. After pointing out he would soon die, he said, *“Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things after my decease.”* Our life on earth impacts others after we die, and our works do follow us. Another way to look at this passage is that the consequences of our deeds follow us into the next life, as judgment will be based on what we have done upon this earth. II Corinthians 5:10 says, *“For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”* Also, in Romans 2:6, we are told God will render to every man *“according to his deeds.”*

In conclusion, it is essential to consider that this blessed rest spoken of in Revelation 14:13 is only for those *“who die in the Lord.”* As the text indicates, it is for those who have “labored” for Him. Salvation only awaits those who *“die in the Lord.”* What is our situation? Are we “in the Lord?” Are we laboring for the Lord? If so, our death can be a joyous occasion!

Love One Another

“Love is patient, love is kind, it is not jealous; love does not brag, it is not arrogant. It does not act disgracefully, it does not seek its own benefit; it is not provoked, does not keep an account of a wrong suffered...” 1 Corinthians 13:4-5

“...with all humility and gentleness, with patience, bearing with one another in love.” Ephesians 4:2

August Birthdays

12 Debbie Hoffman 12 Noemi Critchfield

August Anniversaries

24 Jack and Noemi Critchfield

September Birthdays

11 Marie Burruss 15 Marcos Perales 16 Jim Burruss
30 Dortha Gentry 30 Kurt Hoffman

Regular Meeting Times

Sunday.....9:45 a.m.

Sunday.....10:45 a.m.

Wednesday.....7:00 p.m.

Website:

indiochurchofchrist.com

Preacher:

Jack Critchfield

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Confused?

By Bruce Evans

It is getting more than just a little bit confusing out there, isn't it? Society has taken a decidedly different twist over the past several years. It is now possible for a Caucasian to self-identify as a Native American, or for that matter any other ethnic group. Of course, the same holds true in the inverse. Then there is the case of a swimmer on the University of Pennsylvania women's team, who is for all intent and purpose, biologically a male. For three years Will Thomas competed on the men's swim team, then going into his senior year, he identified no longer as a man, but as Lia Thomas, a woman, winning and setting records at an unprecedented rate.

Much to the chagrin of those who champion causes on behalf LGBTQ+, gender identity is listed in DSM IV (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders) as a disorder, and inasmuch as it is listed in DSM, it is considered to be one of a mental nature. Though in more recent issues of DSM, the word disorder is removed and replaced with dysphoria. Regardless, of semantics it is ludicrous to embrace a mindset being held by a growing number in society of self-assigned gender identity. Or even more contemptable to raise a child without gender identity and to then let the child decide how they would like to identify.

In the 19th chapter of Matthew, Jesus noted, *"Have you not read, that He who created them from the beginning made them male and female."* (v4; see also Genesis 1:27, 5:2) The Bible does not give anyone esprit de corps to select from one of the fifty- eight gender options currently in vogue according to many sources one of which is ABC News. Comedian and culture commentator, Bill Maher, who politically is clearly "left of center" noted that the issue of transgenderism is "trendy" and that is the reason why so many are accepting it.

While it is true that one in approximately 2,000 births there is the possibility of an infant being born with both sets of genitals (or portions thereof), but a simple checking of the chromosomes correction can be made, and that early on. Why has our culture taken something so simple (in the overwhelming number of cases) and made it so complex? The answer can be found in Romans 1:21-25, note verse twenty-five. *"For they exchanged the truth of*

God for a lie, and worshipped and served the creature rather than the Creator..."

Maybe if more would seek God instead of seeking a different gender identity, society would greatly benefit. Accept who He created us to be and accept the distinct gender roles therein. G. K. Chesterton, made the following observation. "The danger is when men stop believing in God is not that they'll believe nothing; but that they will believe in anything." His words ring so. *"For God is not a God of confusion but of peace...."* (1Corinthians 14:33).

Trust and Obey

By Joe Slater

In the final analysis, "Trust and Obey" has been the requirement of God from the Garden of Eden until now. For Adam and Eve, it was *"be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth"* (Genesis 1:28). Eat all the vegetables and fruit you want with the single exception of the fruit of one particular tree. Trust and obey.

During the Patriarchal Age God expressed His will to individuals directly. He told Cain and Abel to offer sacrifice. He directed Noah to build the ark. Abraham was to leave Ur of the Chaldees and go to the place God showed him. He commissioned Moses to lead the Hebrew slaves out of Egypt. Trust and obey.

God gave Moses His law on Mt. Sinai. It contained numerous statutes and ordinances for the His chosen people, Israel, to obey carefully. *"You shall not add to the word which I command you, nor take from it, that you may keep the commandments of the Lord your God which I command you"* (Deuteronomy 4:2). Trust and obey.

Neither Adam and Eve nor any of their descendants trusted and obeyed flawlessly. God knew they wouldn't. In His mercy He planned from eternity to send Jesus to offer His own body and blood to save sinners. *"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved"* (Acts 16:31). *"If you will confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Romans 10:9). *"Repent and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins"* (Acts 2:38). Trust and obey.

"Trust and obey, for there's no other way to be happy in Jesus but to trust and obey."