

1. Romans 6: 3-9 (long version)

Let us walk in newness of life.

A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

Are you unaware that we who were baptized into Christ Jesus
were baptized into his death?

We were indeed buried with him through baptism into death,
so that, just as Christ was raised from the dead
by the glory of the Father,
we too might live in newness of life.

For if we have grown into union with him
through a death like his,
we shall also be united with him in the resurrection.

We know that our old self was crucified with him,
so that our sinful body might be done away with,
that we might no longer be in slavery to sin.

For a dead person has been absolved from sin.

If, then, we have died with Christ,
we believe that we shall also live with him.

We know that Christ, raised from the dead, dies no more;
death no longer has power over him.

The Word of the Lord.

2. *Romans 8: 14-23*

We groan while we wait for the redemption of our bodies.

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Romans.

Those who are led by the Spirit of God are children of God. For you did not receive a spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you received a spirit of adoption, through which we cry, “*Abba, Father!*”

The Spirit itself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if only we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him.

I consider that the sufferings of this present time are as nothing compared with the glory to be revealed for us.

For creation awaits with eager expectation the revelation of the children of God; for creation was made subject to futility, not of its own accord but because of the one who subjected it, in hope that creation itself would be set free from slavery to corruption and share in the glorious freedom of the children of God.

We know that all creation is groaning in labor pains even until now; and not only that, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, we also groan within ourselves as we wait for adoption, the redemption of our bodies.

This is the Word of the Lord.

3. *Romans 8: 31b-35, 37-39*

Who can ever come between us and love of Christ?

A Reading from the letter of Saint Paul to the Romans

If God is for us, who can be against us?

He who did not spare his own Son

but handed him over for us all,

how will he not also give us everything else along with him?

Who will bring a charge against God's chosen ones?

It is God who acquits us. Who will condemn?

It is Christ Jesus who died, rather, was raised,

who also is at the right hand of God,

who indeed intercedes for us.

What will separate us from the love of Christ?

Will anguish, or distress, or persecution,

or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or the sword?

No, in all these things we conquer overwhelmingly

through him who loved us.

For I am convinced that neither death, nor life,

nor angels, nor principalities, nor present things,

nor future things, nor powers, nor height,

nor depth, nor any other creature will be able to separate us from

the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

The Word of the Lord.

4. 1 Corinthians 13:1-13
Faith, Hope and Love

A Reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

If I speak in human and angelic tongues but do not have love, I am a resounding gong or a clashing cymbal. And if I have the gift of prophecy and comprehend all mysteries and all knowledge; if I have all faith so as to move mountains but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away everything I own, and if I hand my body over so that I may boast but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It is not jealous, (love) is not pompous, it is not inflated, it is not rude, it does not seek its own interest, it is not quick-tempered, it does not brood over injury. It does not rejoice over wrongdoing but rejoices with the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails. If there are prophecies, they will be brought to nothing; they will cease; if knowledge, it will be brought to nothing. For we know partially and we prophecy partially, but when the perfect comes, the partial will pass away. When I was a child, I used to talk as a child, think as a child, reason as a child; when I became a man, I put aside childish things. At present we see indistinctly, as in a mirror but then face to face. At present I know partially; then I shall know fully, as I am fully known. So faith, hope and love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love.

The Word of the Lord.

5. 1 Corinthians 15: 51-57

Death is swallowed up in victory

A reading from the first letter of Saint Paul to the Corinthians

Behold, I tell you a mystery.
We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed,
in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound,
the dead will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.
For that which is corruptible
must clothe itself with incorruptibility,
and that which is mortal
must clothe itself with immortality.
And when this which is corruptible
clothes itself with incorruptibility
and this which is mortal
clothes itself with immortality,
then the word that is written shall come about:
“Death is swallowed up in victory.
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.

The Word of the Lord

6. 2 Corinthians 4:14 – 5:1

What is seen is transitory; what is unseen is eternal.

A Reading from the Second Letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians

We know that the one who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and place us with you in His presence. Everything indeed is for you, so that the grace bestowed in abundance on more and more people may cause the thanksgiving to overflow for the glory of God.

Therefore, we are not discouraged; rather, although our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. For this momentary light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison, as we look not to what is seen but to what is unseen; for what is seen is transitory, but what is unseen is eternal.

For we know that if our earthly dwelling, a tent, should be destroyed, we have a building from God, a dwelling not made with hands, eternal in heaven.

The Word of the Lord.

7. 2 Timothy 4: 5-8

The crown of righteousness.

A reading from the Second Letter of Paul to Timothy.

But you, be self-possessed in all circumstances;
put up with hardship; perform the work of an
evangelist; fulfill your ministry.

For I am already being poured out like a libation,
and the time of my departure is at hand.
I have competed well; I have finished the race;
I have kept the faith.

From now on the crown of righteousness awaits
me, which the Lord, the just judge, will award to
me on that day, and not only to me, but to all who
have longed for his appearance.

The Word of the Lord.

8. 1 John 3: 1-2

We shall see God as He really is.

A Reading from the First Letter of St. John

See what love the Father has bestowed on us that we may be called the children of God. Yet so we are. The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him.

Beloved, we are God's children now; what we shall be has not yet been revealed. We do know that when it is revealed we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is.

The Word of the Lord.

9. Revelation 14:13

Happy are those who die in the Lord.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I heard a voice from heaven say,

“Write this: Blessed are the dead who die
in the Lord from now on.”

“Yes” said the Spirit,

“let them find rest from their labors,
for their works accompany them.”

The Word of the Lord.

10 Revelation 21:1-5a, 6b-7
There will be no more death.

A Reading from the Book of Revelation

I saw a new heaven and a new earth.
The former heaven and the former earth had passed away,
and the sea was no more.
I also saw the holy city, a new Jerusalem,
coming down out of heaven from God,
prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.
I heard a loud voice from the throne saying,
“Behold, God’s dwelling is with the human race.
He will dwell with them and they will be his people
and God himself will always be with them as their God.
He will wipe every tear from their eyes,
and there shall be no more death or mourning, wailing or pain,
for the old order has passed away.”
The one who sat on the throne said,
“Behold, I make all things new.
I am the Alpha and the Omega,
the beginning and the end.
To the thirsty I will give a gift
from the spring of life-giving water.
The victor will inherit these gifts,
and I shall be his God, and he will be my son.”

The Word of the Lord.

11. 1 Thessalonians 4: 13-16
Hope for the Christian Dead.

A Reading from the 1st Letter of Paul to the Thessalonians

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers,
about those who have fallen asleep,
so that you may not grieve like the rest,
who have no hope.

For if we believe that Jesus died and rose,
so too will God, through Jesus,
bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Indeed, we tell you this, on the word of the Lord,
that we who are alive,
who are left until the coming of the Lord,
will surely not precede those who have fallen asleep.

For the Lord himself,
with a word of command,
with the voice of an archangel and
with the trumpet of God,
will come down from heaven, and
the dead in Christ will rise first.

The Word of the Lord.

12. Philippians 4:4-7

Rejoice in the Lord always, the Lord is near!

A Reading from the Letter of Paul to the Philippians

Rejoice in the Lord always.

I shall say it again: rejoice!

Your kindness should be known to all.

The Lord is near.

Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,

By prayer and petition, with thanksgiving,

Make your requests known to God.

Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding

Will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus.

The Word of the Lord.