



Voltaire

Thomas Paine

Thomas Hobbes

These men did not prepare in this life for the life that is to come.



1Thes. 4:13 - "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope."

1Cor. 15:54-55 - "So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: Death is swallowed up in victory. 55 O Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?"

The Lord understands our grief.

John 11:33-35 - "Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. 34 And He said, Where have you laid him? They said to Him, Lord, come and see. 35 Jesus wept."

The Lord understands our grief.

John 14:1-3 - "Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3 And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also."



Here and Now

2Cor. 1:3-5 - "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, 4 who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God. 5 For as the sufferings of Christ abound in us, so our consolation also abounds through Christ."

God is the source of all comfort.

Hereafter

 Rev. 21:4 - "And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Hope in Christ

We grieve, but not as those with no hope.

- 1Thes. 4:13 - "But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope."

Hope in Christ

We have the hope of resurrection.

- 1Thes. 4:14-17 - "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. 16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord."

Hope in Christ

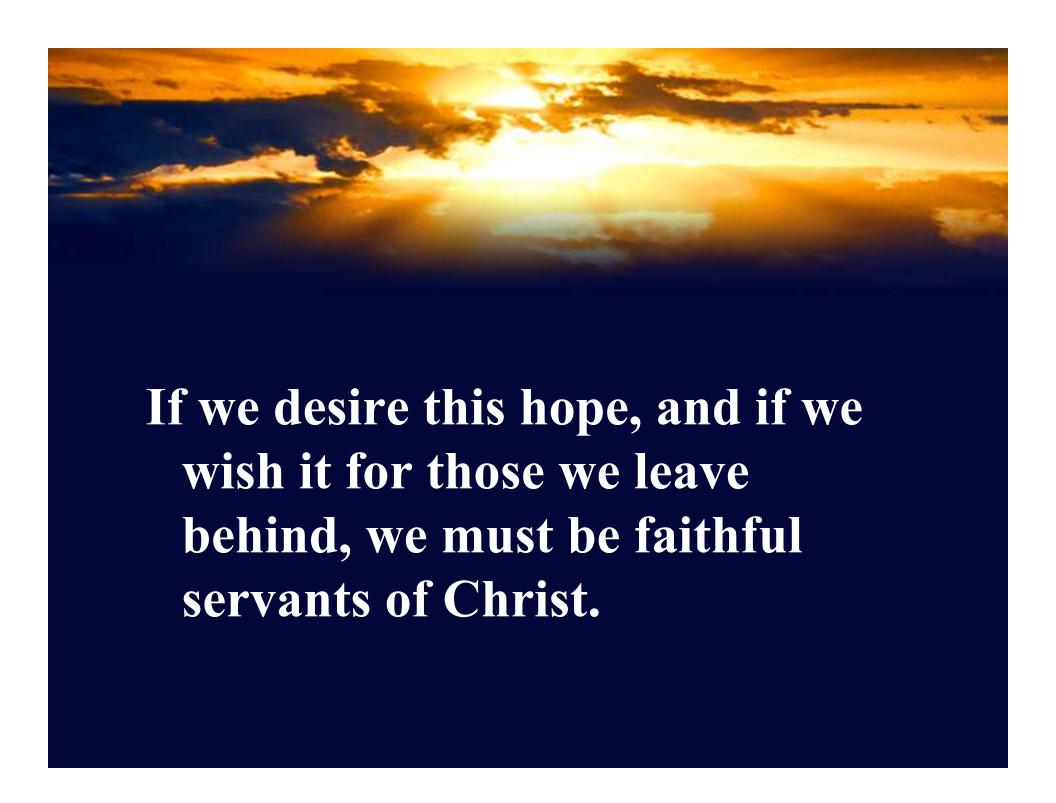
This hope becomes our comfort.

- 1Thes. 4:18 "Therefore, comfort one another with these words."
- "I'll see you later!"

Hope in Christ

Our hope is reserved for those who are faithful to Christ till death.

Rev. 2:10 - "Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life."



Precious Memories

Phil. 1:3-5 - "I thank my God upon every remembrance of you, 4 always in every prayer of mine making request for you all with joy, 5 for your fellowship in the gospel from the first day until now"

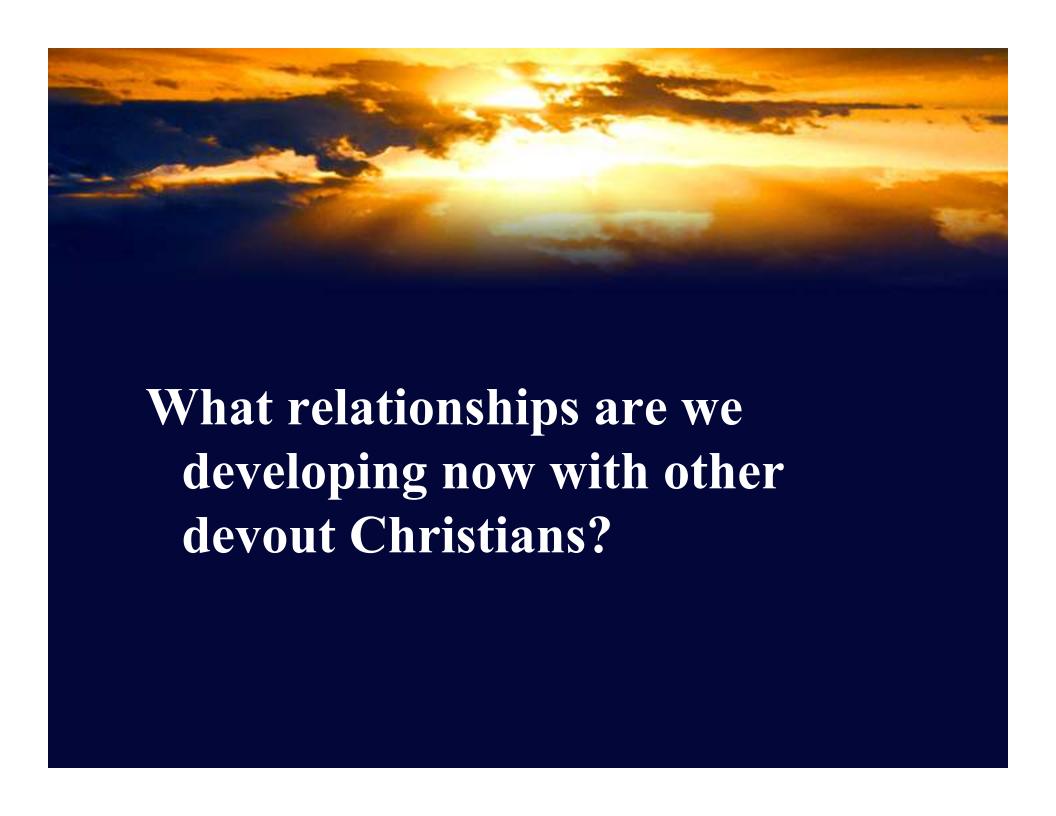
Precious Memories

Phil. 1:6 - "Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ."



Love of Brethren, Family, and Friends

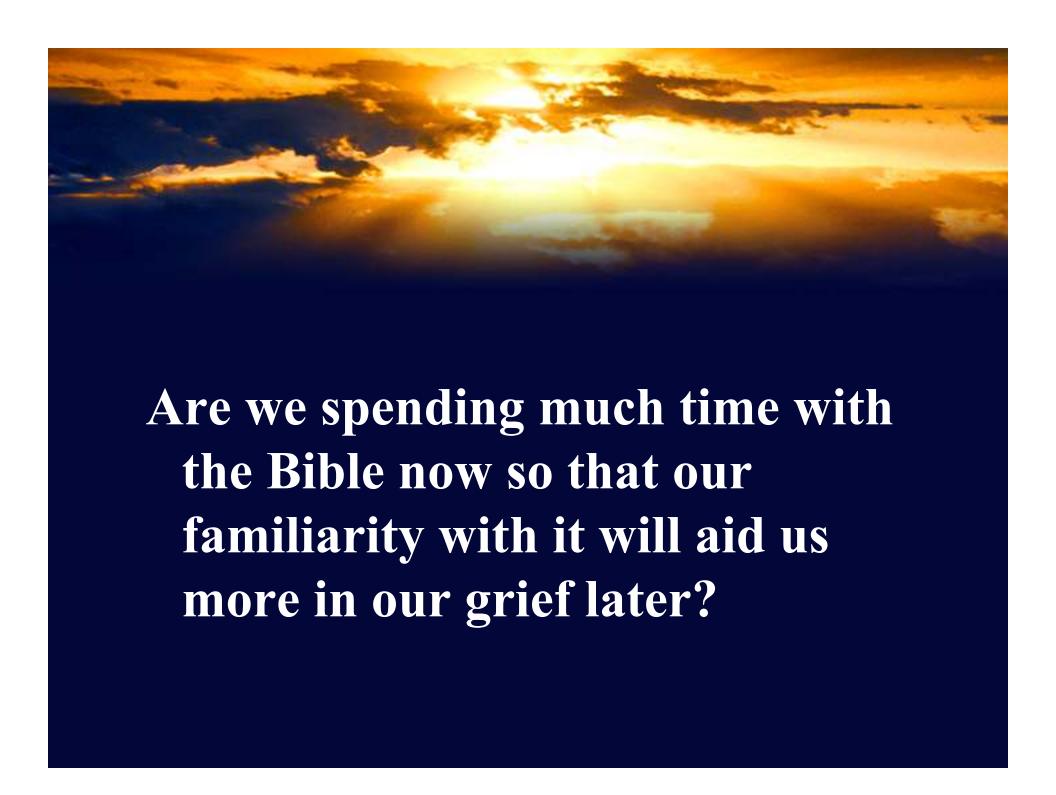
2Cor. 1:4 - "Who comforts us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort those who are in any trouble, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."



The Word of God

Psalm 119:165 - "Great peace have those who love Your law, And nothing causes them to stumble."

Psalm 1:2-3 - "But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night. 3 He shall be like a tree Planted by the rivers of water, That brings forth its fruit in its season, Whose leaf also shall not wither; And whatever he does shall prosper."



Prayer

Prayer is a source of peace and strength.

Phil. 4:6-7 - "Be anxious for nothing, but in everything by prayer and supplication, with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known to God; 7 and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus."

Prayer

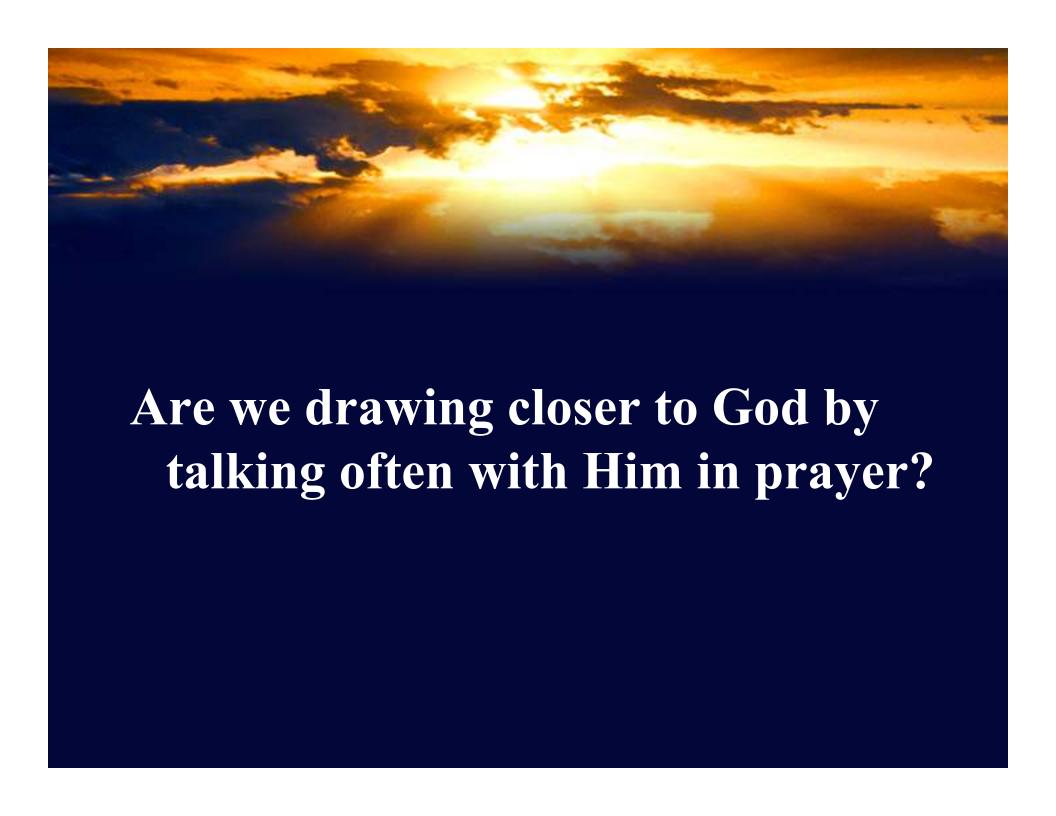
Prayer finds grace and help in time of need.

- Heb. 4:14-16 - "Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. 15 For we do not have a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all points tempted as we are, yet without sin. 16 Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need."

Prayer

However, prayer is of value only if we are right relationship with God.

1Peter 3:12 - "For the eyes of the LORD are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the LORD is against those who do evil."



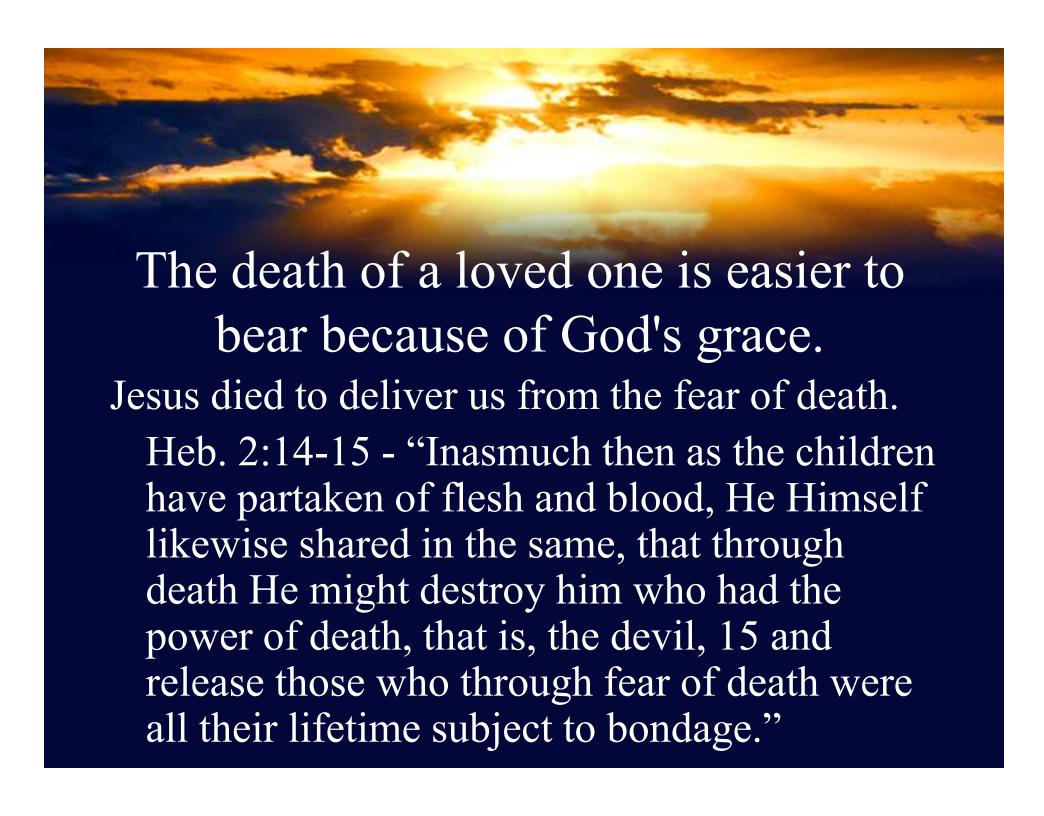
Songs and Hymns

- Eph. 5:19 "Speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord."
- Col. 3:16 "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom, teaching and <u>admonishing one another</u> in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord."

Songs and Hymns

Praising God in song when in grief is the moral equivalent of Job's words when in his grief he said: Job 1:20-21 - "Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped. And he said: 'Naked I came from my mother's womb, And naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; Blessed be the name of the LORD."







Psalm 116:15 - "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints."

The loved one has finally gone home; if we remain faithful, the separation will only be temporary.

Are we doing things today that will make the passing of our loved ones (as well as our own) easier to bear?

