

Planning for Tomorrow

DECEMBER 2015



Bruton Parish Church

*in the
Episcopal Diocese of Southern Virginia*

P.O. Box 3520, Williamsburg, VA 23187-3520
(757) 229-2891

www.brutonparish.org

NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____ DATE: _____

Table of Contents

	<u>Page</u>
Introduction	2
What To Do	3
<u>PART I</u>	
Biographical Data Needed For the Death Certificate and for Writing an Obituary	5
Help For Those Who Settle My Affairs	12
<u>PART II</u>	
The Liturgy For The Dead	14
Burial at Bruton Parish Church	14
The Service At Bruton Parish Church	15
Suggested Funeral Readings, Psalms & Hymns	17
Christian Estate Planning	18
Appendix	21

**In all literature
there is nothing
that compares
with the Bible.**

Milton

Forms or Pamphlets Available from the Parish House

- Bruton Parish Church Interment Policy & Contract
- Gift Planning at Bruton Parish Church

**Use this space in
the margins to
make notes !**

Introduction

Even while we are alive, all of us face the reality of death -- much later or unexpectedly soon, ours or that of a family member, a lifelong friend or a new neighbor, unprepared or prepared, willingly or grudgingly. The old adage appears to be true: The only certainties in life are death and taxes.

The intention of the following pages is twofold: (1) to assure you that the church's ministries are waiting to offer guidance and support, and (2) to provide steps you can take now that will ease the sorrow of others later, and will give those who follow the resources to help them carry on. This booklet will then be a gift from your heart.

These pages are designed for you. It is important that your wishes be known, so that those who love you are able to carry them out.

Toward that goal, and regardless of your age (as an adult) or current circumstances, we strongly recommend that you provide the information these pages ask for, and place it where your family and your executor or personal representative can conveniently reach it. As an extra precaution, it is advisable to place a copy in your safe deposit box. If, in the future, you wish to make changes in this document, you can do so.

While these pages have been prepared for members of Bruton Parish Church, and a specific section is devoted to traditions of the Episcopal Church and policies and procedures of Bruton Parish, we encourage you to copy or borrow from these pages if they would be useful to anyone in your family, regardless of that person's philosophy about death or different religious connection.

What To Do

Beforehand

1. Execute a Last Will and Testament, a Durable General Power of Attorney, and an Advance Medical Directive.
2. Execute a Living Will or a Five Wishes document to ensure that your end-of-life wishes will be followed. This should include a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care for someone to decide healthcare matters for you if you are unable to do so for yourself. Contact a clergyperson, hospital administrator, or attorney about how to do this.
3. Assemble in one safe, accessible place, known to family members and/or your executor, the following documents: birth certificate, social security number, marriage certificate, record of military service, passport, passwords and policy information on life insurance.
4. Consult a funeral director for information on services that the funeral home provides, attendant costs, standard procedures, and options available. Such an interview will be free of charge. Do **not** make any commitments of money, contracts or down-payments at this time. Discuss this information with family members, your executor or personal representative, or trusted friend.
5. If you expect to need a cemetery plot, memorial garden, or columbarium and a family space is available, notify the proper person of your intention, and obtain written permission for use. If you will need to purchase a plot or reserve a space, do so as soon as possible after you decide where you wish your physical remains to be put to rest.
6. If #5 above does not apply, leave instructions where you wish your physical remains to be dispatched: a) direct from death to cremation, then interment (and where); b) scattering of cremation ashes (where, how, and when); c) donation of your whole body or certain organs

**God loves every
one of us as if
there were but one
of us to love.**

St. Augustine

for medical research (written authorization required). Keep in mind that state laws may require certain restrictions.

7. Many people find it useful, even rewarding, to write their own obituary ahead of time, leaving survivors with a much easier responsibility.
8. When you have completed this booklet, we strongly suggest that you place one copy in a safe location and provide your executor/personal representative with a summary letter that includes the location of this document. Alternatively, you may wish to give your executor or personal representative a copy, and you may wish to file a copy of Part II (funeral and interment plans) with the church Administrative Assistant, where it will be placed under lock and key. If you choose this latter approach, remember that anytime you update your document, you need to provide new copies to these parties.

At the Time of Death

1. If you are a church member, someone should notify the pastor of the church immediately, day or night. Most clergy expect such calls and prefer them without delay. You may expect clergy to say prayers with family at the bedside of the deceased. The funeral home or crematorium should also be notified, day or night.
2. If you are in Williamsburg Hospice care, either at home or in-patient, Hospice will have given family members specific written instructions about notifications.

Later

In the next seventy-two hours your family and executor will probably be occupied with carrying out your wishes, notifying family, friends, and newspaper(s) regarding your obituary, and otherwise preparing for whatever public and private remembrances have been arranged. This will be a time of sweet sorrow — perhaps mostly sorrow — when the church will be praying for your loved ones to be upheld in faith, in the hope of eternity with the communion of all the saints, and surrounded by the strength of all who love you — and each other — and who solemnly celebrate the fullness of your life on earth and the ways you touched so many people over the years with your gifts.

The death of a member of the Church should be reported as soon as it is possible to, and arrangements for the funeral should be made in consultation with the minister of the congregation.

The Book of Common Prayer

PART I

Biographical Data Needed for the Death Certificate and for Writing an Obituary

DATE: _____

FULL NAME: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

Present Address:

Social Security Number: _____

(Remember that there may be a death benefit)

Birthplace: _____

(city) _____ *(county)*

(state) _____ *(country)*

Date of Birth: *(month/day/year)* _____

FATHER'S FULL NAME: _____

Deceased? Yes Birthdate: _____

No Birthplace: _____

Occupation: _____

MOTHER'S FULL NAME: _____

Deceased? Yes Birthdate: _____

No Birthplace: _____

Occupation: _____

PRESENT MARITAL STATUS:

Single Married Widowed Divorced

MARRIAGE DATE: _____

DATE DIVORCED: _____

*Eye has not seen,
ear has not heard,
nor has it so much
as dawned on
many what God
has prepared for
those who love
him.*

I Corinthians 2:9

The most important things in life are not things.

Anonymous

DATE WIDOWED: _____

NAME OF SPOUSE: _____

Deceased? Yes Birthdate: _____

No Birthplace: _____

Occupation: _____

NAMES & ADDRESSES OF CHILDREN:

Name & Address

Name & Address

Name & Address

Name & Address

Name & Address

Name & Address

Name & Address

NAME(S) OF GRANDCHILDREN: _____

NUMBER OF GREAT-GRANDCHILDREN: _____

BROTHERS & SISTERS (CITIES OF RESIDENCE):

Name *City/State*

Name *City/State*

Name *City/State*

Name *City/State*

Name *City/State*

Name *City/State*

Name *City/State*

SCHOOLS YOU ATTENDED AND DEGREES:

Name

City/State

Name

City/State

Name

City/State

Name

City/State

YOUR PRESENT OCCUPATION: _____

Name of firm: _____

Address: _____

Present position: _____

Dates employed: _____

Total years spent in this occupation: _____

PREVIOUS OCCUPATIONS:

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN WILLIAMSBURG: _____

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN VIRGINIA: _____

LENGTH OF RESIDENCE IN THE U.S.: _____

PREVIOUS RESIDENCES:

MILITARY RECORD: *(important in case of possible veteran's death benefits and/or burial plots)*

Date(s) Enlisted: _____

Rank: _____

Branch of Service: _____

SSAN/Serial Number: _____

In St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans, he writes that nothing, not even death, "shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Date Discharged: _____

Veterans' Organizations (*address and phone number*):

CHURCH MEMBERSHIP: _____

Denomination: _____

Church Name & Address:

Baptized? Yes No

If yes, Where: _____

Date: _____

Confirmed: Yes No

If yes, Where: _____

Date: _____

Communicant? Yes No

COMMUNITY, CHURCH & PROFESSIONAL INVOLVEMENT

God is, and all is well.

John Greenleaf Whittier

CLUBS YOU HAVE BELONGED TO: *(include office held)*

POLITICAL OFFICES HELD:

LABOR UNIONS:

(You may wish to insert additional pages with pertinent data for an obituary.)

***Like good
stewards of the
manifold grace of
God, serve one
another with
whatever gift each
of you has
received.***

1 Peter 4:10

When death occurs, those who are left behind often do not know whom to notify immediately. Use the following two pages to list relatives and friends to be called and those to be written.

RELATIVES (immediately notify by phone):

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
---------------------	-------------	---------------------

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
---------------------	-------------	---------------------

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
---------------------	-------------	---------------------

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
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<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
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<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
---------------------	-------------	---------------------

<i>Relationship</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
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FRIENDS (immediately notify by phone):

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

<i>Name</i>	<i>Phone Number</i>
-------------	---------------------

**Thanks be to God,
who has given us
the victory through
our Lord Jesus
Christ.**

I Corinthians 15:57

Please notify later:

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Name, Address, Phone Number and/or Email

Help For Those Who Settle My Affairs

My Executor:

Name

Address: & Phone Number

My Financial Advisor:

Contact

Address & Phone Number

My Lawyer:

Name

Address & Phone Number

My Doctor:

Address & Phone Number

BANK ACCOUNTS: *Banks in which I have accounts and/or safe deposit box (including account numbers, location of safe deposit keys, and other necessary information):*

We bring God's message to the world, that all who believe in God will have eternal life.

SAFE DEPOSIT BOXES:

<i>Facility Location</i>	<i>Box Number</i>	<i>Key Location</i>
<i>Facility Location</i>	<i>Box Number</i>	<i>Key Location</i>
<i>Facility Location</i>	<i>Box Number</i>	<i>Key Location</i>

LOCATION OF DOCUMENTS:

Last Will & Testament: _____

Birth Certificate: _____

Marriage Certificate: _____

Military Discharge: _____

Trusts: _____

Mortgages & Deeds: _____

Insurance policies (company name/address/ telephone number, policy number, etc.):

Income Tax Records (for previous year): _____

Passwords & PIN Numbers: _____

Other Documents (i.e., family foundations, etc.):

Important documents (i.e., deeds, leases, titles, etc.):

PART II

The Liturgy for the Dead

The liturgy for the dead is an Easter liturgy. It finds all its meaning in the Resurrection. Because Jesus was raised from the dead, we, too, shall be raised.

The liturgy, therefore, is characterized by joy, in the certainty that “neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

This joy, however, does not make human grief un-Christian. The very love we have for each other in Christ brings deep sorrow when we are parted by death. Jesus himself wept at the grave of his friend. So, while we rejoice that one we love has entered into the nearer presence of our Lord, we sorrow in sympathy with those who mourn.

Book of Common Prayer

Burial at Bruton Parish Church

Only cremated remains may be interred in the churchyard of Bruton Parish Church. Interment is restricted to present and past members of the parish and their immediate family. Any questions of eligibility will be decided by the Rector and Wardens of the church. Forms for prearranging interment in the churchyard may be obtained and coordinated with the Administrative Assistant.

Cremation is a step in the preparation of human remains that provides a simple return to nature and accomplishes in a few minutes what otherwise takes years. Please note that you do not have to hire the services of a funeral home to accomplish cremation; there are local and national organizations that may be contacted that provide the same service, possibly at less cost.

There is no need to purchase an urn if ashes are to be interred at Bruton Parish; in fact, we provide a simple container. The interment is recorded on a memorial plaque at a future date with the name, birthdate and interment date of the deceased.

The Service At Bruton Parish Church

The following are questions or items that should be considered in planning the service at Bruton Parish. If you have any questions regarding any of the items, please do not hesitate to contact the clergy to help you.

We are gathered to witness the goodness of God, a goodness that defeats death. It is customary that our parishioners be buried from the church and not a funeral home. If the family would prefer the service at the graveside, that may be arranged. We also offer the Parish Hall for visitation after the service, if available.

{Deceased} Full Name: _____

Birth Date: _____ Date of Death: _____

*** ***I have read the spelling of the name, date of birth and date of death and agree that it is correct for the bulletin and grave marker.***

Signature of Family Member (Spouse/Child) Date

Place of Interment:

- Bruton Parish Churchyard (cremations only)
 Other: _____

Interment Arranged: Yes No

Date: _____ Check #: _____

Contact Person: _____

Homily: Yes No

Type of Service:

- Burial Office, Rite I (*Traditional*)
With Communion? Yes No
 Burial Office, Rite II (*Contemporary*)
With Communion? Yes No

Preferred Readings/Psalm/Hymns: (*see appendix for suggestions*)

Old Testament: _____

Psalms: _____

New Testament: _____

Gospel: _____ (required at Communion)

Hymns: _____

The French philosopher La Rochefoucauld once wrote, "Death is like the sun; no one can look at it directly. This might be true, but if we never look at it even indirectly, then death will take us by surprise."

Solo/Special Music: _____

Pall Bearers *(list below, or check here if not required)*

Memorials to *(include complete and specific address):*

Reception: Parish House *(Bruton Parish Kitchen Ministry may be able to provide)*

Other: _____

Other specific instructions (check with clergy first):

Spouse/Significant Other's or Contact's Address & Phone:

Funeral Home & Phone Number: _____

Virginia Society of Cremation: _____

Suggested Readings for Funeral or Memorial Services

Portions of the Bible are recommended by the Church for use with either Burial Rite I or Burial Rite II services, or with Memorial Services. In the Church it is customary to have readings from the Psalms, Old Testament, New Testament, and Gospel. If hymns are included in the service, one or more selections may be used from the following list. The suggested readings below may be found in the Appendix.

Old Testament:

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)
Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all who mourn)
Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33 (The Lord is good to those who wait for him)
Wisdom 3:1-5, 9 (The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)
Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

Psalms:

23 (either traditional or contemporary); 27; 42:1-7; 46; 90:1-12; 121;
130; 139:1-11 (Optional, Rite II 106:1-5; 116)

New Testament:

Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)
I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)
II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)
I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)
Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away every tear)
Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

Gospel:

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)
John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)
John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)
John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)
John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

Hymns:

199 Come, ye faithful, raise the strain
205 Good Christians all, rejoice and sing
207 Jesus Christ is risen today, Alleluia!
287 For all the saints, who from their labors rest
473 Lift high the cross, the love of Christ proclaim
488 Be thou my vision, O Lord of my heart
645 The King of love my shepherd is
671 Amazing grace! how sweet the sound
680 O God, our help in ages past
688 A mighty fortress is our God

*Let us with
gladness present
the offerings and
oblations of our
life and labor to
the Lord.*

*Book of
Common Prayer*

CHRISTIAN ESTATE PLANNING

In the Episcopal Church, the burial service includes distinct themes of hope and joy. It honors our Creator God who is good and our Lord Jesus Christ who has made the hope of our resurrection possible for us. Therefore, we do not mourn as people without hope, in spite of our grief, at the loss of our loved ones. We often sing hymns of Easter's joy, the liturgical color is white, and the spirit of the service helps us to look to the future.

If you subscribe to the Church's teaching that everything that we have – our possessions, our family, our home, our very lives – are gifts from God, then it should follow that astutely managing those gifts and planning for their orderly disposition at death is a fundamental element of Christian stewardship responsibility.

The Planned Giving Program of Bruton Parish Church was established in 2001 as a parish-oriented ministry. Its purpose is to convey the importance of thoughtful estate planning as a fundamental element of Christian stewardship, and to encourage and facilitate acts of faith and thanksgiving in the form of bequests, trusts, and other special gifts to the Parish, the Diocese or other Christian ministry.

The Planned Giving Committee will assist the potential donor and his or her financial advisors in the evaluation of various planned giving opportunities and assist in completing the arrangements for planned gifts. **There is no cost or obligation associated with any service provided by the Planned Giving Committee.**

As you plan for the future, we ask you to consider Bruton Parish Church. Increasingly, churches are finding it more and more difficult to make ends meet on yearly giving alone. We fortunately have a Rockefeller Endowment that assists us in the maintenance of our historic church. An endowment can give us the flexibility to take advantage of many other opportunities to serve the Lord.

Traditionally, endowment funds accumulate most through bequests. ***As you make your will, think about how much Bruton Parish Church and the Diocese of Southern Virginia itself has meant to you.***

***Now we see
through a glass
darkly, as in a
mirror; then we
shall see face to
face.***

1 Corinthians 13:12

For future generations, we must ensure the continued growth of our parish. Although we may die, we want our church to continue to be the blessed, holy place it is today – “home” to our children and their descendants as well.

Bruton Parish’s website has more information -- click **GIVING**, then **GIFT PLANNING**. If you wish to explore the possibilities of making a Planned Gift, call the Parish House at 229-2891 and set up an appointment to speak to one of the clergy or a lay member of our Planned Giving Ministry.

As a final comment in this area, more than 50% of adults in the United States do not have a will. A simple will is fairly inexpensive and can be completed by an attorney who can help you make or update a legal will in Virginia. (You may also want to complete a *Living Will* which provides instructions for family and medical team at the time of your death.)

We hope you will take care of this matter for your family’s benefit, and hope you will remember Bruton Parish Church in your will.

*When our mortal
body lies in death,
there is prepared
for us a dwelling
place eternal in the
heavens.*

*Book of
Common
Prayer*



Other pertinent information for my family:

Lined area for writing.

SUGGESTED FUNERAL OR MEMORIAL READINGS

APPENDIX

Old Testament

Isaiah 25:6-9 (He will swallow up death in victory)

On this mountain the Lord of hosts will make for all peoples a feast of rich food, a feast of well-aged wines, of rich food filled with marrow, of well-aged wines strained clear. And he will destroy on this mountain the shroud that is cast over all peoples, the sheet that is spread over all nations; he will swallow up death forever. Then the Lord God will wipe away the tears from all faces, and the disgrace of his people he will take away from all the earth, for the Lord has spoken. It will be said on that day, Lo, this is our God; we have waited for him, so that he might save us. This is the Lord for whom we have waited.

Isaiah 61:1-3 (To comfort all who mourn)

The spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me; he has sent me to bring good news to the oppressed, to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and release to the prisoners; to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor, and the day of vengeance of our God; to comfort all who mourn; to provide for those who mourn in Zion -- to give them a garland instead of ashes, the oil of gladness instead of mourning, the mantle of praise instead of a faint spirit. They will be called oaks of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, to display his glory.

Lamentations 3:22-26, 31-33

(The Lord is good to those who wait for him)

The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases, his mercies never come to an end; they are new every morning; great is your faithfulness. "The Lord is my portion," says my soul, "therefore I will hope in him." The Lord is good to those who wait for him, to the soul that seeks him. It is good that one should wait quietly for the salvation of the Lord. For the Lord will not reject forever ... Although he causes grief, he will have compassion according to the abundance of his steadfast love; for he does not willingly afflict or grieve anyone.

Wisdom 3:1-5, 9

(The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God)

But the souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them. In the eyes of the foolish they seemed to have died, and their departure was thought to be a disaster, and their going from us to be their destruction; but they are at peace. For though in the sight of others they were punished, their hope is full of immortality. Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good, because God tested them and found them worthy of himself. Those who trust in him will understand truth, and the faithful will abide with him in love, because grace and mercy are upon his holy ones, and he watches over his elect.

Job 19:21-27a (I know that my Redeemer lives)

Have pity on me, have pity on me, O you my friends, for the hand of God has touched me! Why do you, like God, pursue me, never satisfied with my flesh? O that my words were written down! O that they were inscribed in a book! O that with an iron pen and with lead they were engraved on a rock forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives, and that at the last he will stand upon the earth; and after my skin has been thus destroyed, then in my flesh I shall see God, whom I shall see on my side and my eyes shall behold, and not another.

NEW TESTAMENT**Romans 8:14-19, 34-35, 37-39 (The glory that shall be revealed)**

For all 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 have received a spirit of adoption. When we cry, "Abba! Father!" it is that very Spirit bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ -- if, in fact, we suffer with him so that we may also be glorified with him. I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory about to be revealed to us. For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the children of God. Who is to condemn? It is Christ Jesus, who died, yes, who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who indeed intercedes for us. Who will separate us from the love of Christ? Will hardship, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us. For I am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor rulers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Corinthians 15:20-26, 35-38, 42-44, 53-58 (The imperishable body)

But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who have died. For since death came through a human being, the resurrection of the dead has also come through a human being; for as all die in Adam, so all will be made alive in Christ. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, then at his coming those who belong to Christ. Then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to God the Father, after he has destroyed every ruler and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death. But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. And as for what you sow, you do not sow the body that is to be, but a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. But God gives it a body as he has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body. So it is with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in

weakness, it is raised in power. It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. For this perishable body must put on imperishability, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When this perishable body puts on imperishability, and this mortal body puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will be fulfilled: "Death has been 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. Therefore, my beloved, be steadfast, immovable, always excelling in the work of the Lord, because you know that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

II Corinthians 4:16-5:9 (Things that are unseen are eternal)

So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day. So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.

I John 3:1-2 (We shall be like him)

See what love the Father has given us, that we should be called children of God; and that is what 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 will be has not yet been revealed. What we do know is this: when he is revealed, we will be like him, for we will see him as he is.

Revelation 7:9-17 (God shall wipe away every tear)

After this I looked, and there was a great multitude that no one could count, from every nation, from all tribes and peoples and languages, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, robed in white, with palm branches in their hands. They cried out in a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who is seated on the throne, and to the Lamb!" And all the angels stood around the throne and around the elders and the four living creatures, and they fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God, singing, "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom and thanksgiving and honor and power and might be to our God forever and ever! Amen." Then one of the elders addressed me, saying, "Who are these, robed in white, and where have they come from?" I said to him, "Sir, you are the one that knows." Then he said to me, "These are they who have come out of the great ordeal; they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb. For this reason they are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the one who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and he will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."

Revelation 21:2-7 (Behold, I make all things new)

And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "See, the home of God is among mortals. He will dwell with them as their God; they will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; mourning and crying and pain will be no more, for the first things have passed away." And the one who was seated on the throne said, "See, I am making all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." Then he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water as a gift from the spring of the water of life. Those who conquer will inherit these things, and I will be their God and they will be my children.

THE HOLY GOSPEL

John 5:24-27 (He who believes has everlasting life)

Very truly, I tell you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life, and does not come under judgment, but has passed from death to life. "Very truly, I tell you, the hour is coming, and is now here, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself; and he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man.

John 6:37-40 (All that the Father gives me will come to me)

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me, but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day."

John 10:11-16 (I am the good shepherd)

"I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away -- and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know my own and my own know me, just as the Father knows me and I know the Father. And I lay down my life for the sheep. I have other sheep that do not belong to this fold. I must bring them also, and they will listen to my voice. So there will be one flock, one shepherd.

John 11:21-27 (I am the resurrection and the life)

Martha said to Jesus, "Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give you whatever you ask of him." Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise again." Martha said to him, "I know that he will rise again in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?" She said to him, "Yes, Lord, I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, the one coming into the world."

John 14:1-6 (In my Father's house are many rooms)

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, so that where I am, there you may be also. and you know the way to the place where I am going." Thomas said to him, "Lord, we do not know where you are going. How can we know the way?" Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."