

ALIVE FOREVER

Part 36 of Foundations 260. Revelation 1:18.

Peter Foxwell. Cornerstone Church. November 2, 2025.

THE QUEST FOR IMMORTALITY

Ultra-wealthy investors are searching for ways to delay death.¹

- Including popping 111 pills a day, etc.

But the problem of mortality has already been solved.

REVELATION 1:18: BACKGROUND AND TEXT

Revelation was written by the apostle John in the mid-90s.

- The Emperor Domitian exiled him for preaching Christ.
- The theme of Revelation is that Jesus has defeated death, the devil, and Rome. Therefore, Christians should be courageous under pressure.

Revelation 1:17-18 (CSB)

When I saw him, I fell at his feet like a dead man. He laid his right hand on me and said, “Don’t be afraid. I am the First and the Last, 18 and the Living One. I was dead, but look — I am alive forever and ever, and I hold the keys of death and Hades.

JESUS HAS CONQUERED DEATH

Jesus didn’t just delay death; he abolished it.

Revelation 1:18 (CSB) “I was dead, but look - I am alive forever and ever”.

2 Timothy 1:10 (CSB) ... our Savior Christ Jesus, who has abolished death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.

¹ ¹ <https://time.com/6315607/bryan-johnsons-quest-for-immortality/>

Therefore, Christians live forever.

John 11:25 (CSB) Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me, even if he dies, will live.

"... and I hold the keys of death and Hades" (Revelation 1:18).

- In the ancient world, the **key** to the city's gates was given to the city's governor, who had the authority to open and close the gates and control who came and went.
- Because Jesus defeated death at the cross and rose from the dead, he has the "key" to death and Hades. So, the risen Jesus has shut the gate to death for his people.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CHRISTIANS DIE?

1. Christians will live with Christ immediately.

- For the Christian, death is not an extinction of consciousness but a change of address.

Philippians 1:23-24 (CSB) I long to depart and be with Christ — which is far better — 24 but to remain in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.

2 Corinthians 5:8 (CSB) In fact, we are confident, and we would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.

- Our biological body dies, but our spirit goes to be with Christ immediately (Luke 23:43). We will be at "home" with him.

2. Christians will live in heaven for a while.

- John saw believers around God's throne in heaven.

Revelation 4:4 (CSB) Around the throne were twenty-four thrones, and on the thrones sat twenty-four elders dressed in white clothes, with golden crowns on their heads.

- The 24 thrones and the 24 elders stand for the 12 tribes of Israel and the 12 apostles of Jesus. They represent all of God's people pre- and post-Christ. It's a way to tell us that all God's people are in heaven with God.

Revelation 7:9 (CSB) After this, I looked, and there was a vast multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language, which no one could number, standing before the throne and before the Lamb.

3. Christians will receive resurrection bodies.

- When Christ returns, he will raise us into resurrection bodies like his own.

1 Corinthians 15:51-53 (CSB) Listen, I am telling you a mystery: We will not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we will be changed.

Philippians 3:21 (CSB) He will transform the body of our humble condition into the likeness of his glorious body, by the power that enables him to subject everything to himself (See also 1 Thessalonians 4:16; 1 Corinthians 15:42-44).

4. Christians will live in heaven on the new earth forever.

- God's plan of redemption culminates in the new creation—a beautiful, sinless, God-saturated experience.

Revelation 21:3-4 (CSB) Then I heard a loud voice from the throne: Look, God's dwelling is with humanity, and he will live with them. They will be his peoples, and God himself will be with them and will be their God. 4 He will wipe away every tear from their eyes. Death will be no more; grief, crying, and pain will be no more, because the previous things have passed away (Also 21:22-24; 22:1-5).

WE KNOW THE SECRET TO IMMORTALITY

Christians: Be courageous and filled with hope (Romans 8:18).

Not-yet a Christian? I'm happy to answer your questions.

SMALL GROUP GUIDE

Review

- Review Peter's November 2nd teaching and study guide. For more resources, visit www.famousgod.com/small-groups.
- What were the main insights of Peter's teaching?
- What questions do you have about the passage or Peter's teaching?
- What were the main applications or takeaways for your life?

Discuss

- How does Jesus' victory over death change the way you view your own mortality and the deaths of loved ones? How does it feel to know that your believing loved ones are alive and well in heaven?
- In light of the promise of eternal life, how much time, money, energy, and mental bandwidth should we invest in extending our lives here and now?
- How do you feel about knowing that the church on earth is united with the church in heaven in prayer and worship? Does it matter? Explain.
- Discuss the meaning and application of Romans 8:18, especially in light of pressure to stop following Jesus.
- What questions or doubts do you have about death, eternal life, or the resurrection? How can the group support you in finding answers?

Prayer Focus

- Pray for grace to live in light of eternity and the victory of Christ over death.
- Pray that Cornerstone Church would always offer comfort and hope through its profession and preaching of eternal life in Christ.