

cept Him as Messiah, they would face God's judgment.

In another setting, Jesus warned of a tragic future that awaits all people who reject Him (Jn. 3:18). The Bible calls it the second death, which is eternity in hell (Rev. 20:14; 21:8). This judgment stands in stark contrast to God's gift of eternal life, given to those who repent and put their faith in His Son (Jn. 3:15-18; Rom. 6:23).

No matter how good or bad we think we are, if we have not repented before our life ends, whether we die in our beds at 83 or in a car crash at 18, we will perish eternally.

Because of Christ, no one has to die twice. Which will it be for you-- eternal life, or the second death? --HWR

*Now is God's appointed time,  
Accept Him while you may;  
Tomorrow is uncertain--  
God's promise is "today." --Bostrom*

**Because Christ died once, no one has to die twice.**



## Central Mountains Baptist Church

# OCTOBER 18, 2020

### It's Your Choice

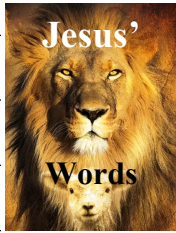
*He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already. --John 3:18*

We would have expected Jesus to give a sympathetic word for the victims when He was told of a massacre of Jews who were offering sacrifices (Lk. 13:1). Instead, Christ issued a stern warning: "Unless you repent you will all likewise perish" (v.3).

What did Jesus mean? Obviously, He wasn't saying that anyone who refused to turn from sin would be executed by a ruler or crushed by a falling tower. Life itself tells us that isn't true.

Those who died were no more innocent or guilty than those who were not killed. Christ was warning His listeners that if they did not repent and ac-





# Pervasive, Permanent Peace

**(John 14:9)** "... Have I been with you so long, and yet you have not known Me, Philip? He who has seen Me has seen the Father; so how can you say, 'Show us the Father'?"

In Luke 13:1-17 we can make three comforting observations about our God:

## 1. God is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 1-5

**(John 9:1-3)** Now as Jesus passed by, He saw a man who was blind from birth. [2] And His disciples asked Him, saying, "Rabbi, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" [3] Jesus answered, "Neither this man nor his parents sinned, but that the works of God should be revealed in him."

**(Isaiah 57:1)** The righteous perishes, And no man takes it to heart; Merciful men are taken away, While no one considers That the righteous is taken away from evil.

**(Psalms 73:3)** For I was envious of the boastful, When I saw the prosperity of the wicked.

**(Psalms 73:5)** They are not in trouble as other men, ... **(Psalms 73:11)** And they say, "How does God know? And is there knowledge in the Most High?"

**(Psalms 73:16-17)** When I thought how to understand this, It was too painful for me; [17] Until I went into the sanctuary of God; Then I understood their end. **(Psalms 73:19)** Oh, how they are brought to desolation, as in a moment! They are utterly consumed with terrors.

**(Psalms 73:13-14)** Surely I have cleansed my heart in vain, ... [14] For all day long I have been plagued, ... **(Psalms 73:23-24)** Nevertheless I am continually with You; .. [24] You will guide me with Your counsel, And afterward receive me to glory.

**(Psalms 96:10-13)** Say among the nations, "The LORD reigns; The world also is firmly established, ..; He shall judge the peoples righteously." [11] Let the heavens rejoice, and let the earth be glad; Let the sea roar, and all its fullness; [12] Let the field be joyful, and all

that is in it. Then all the trees of the woods will rejoice before the LORD. [13] For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

**(Romans 12:19)** Beloved, do not avenge yourselves, but rather give place to wrath; for it is written, "VENGEANCE IS MINE, I WILL REPAY," says the Lord.

**(Psalms 51:5)** Behold, I was brought forth in iniquity, And in sin my mother conceived me.



## 2. God is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 6-9

**(Leviticus 19:23-25)** 'When you come into the land, and have planted all kinds of trees for food, then you shall count their fruit as uncircumcised. Three years it shall be as uncircumcised to you. It shall not be eaten. [24] But in the fourth year all its fruit shall be holy, a praise to the LORD. [25] And in the fifth year you may eat its fruit, that it may yield to you its increase: I am the LORD your God.

**(Matthew 3:8)** Therefore bear fruits worthy of repentance, **(Matthew 3:10)** And even now the ax is laid to the root of the trees. Therefore every tree which does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**(Mat 7:17)** Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. **(Matt 7:19)** Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

**(Matthew 13:22)** Now he who received seed among the thorns is he who hears the word, and the cares of this world and the deceitfulness of riches choke the word, and he becomes unfruitful.

**(John 15:4-5)** Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me. [5] "I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

**(Galatians 5:22-23)** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, [23] gentleness, self-control. ...



## 3. God is \_\_\_\_\_, verses 10-16



**(2 Corinthians 6:14-15)** ... what fellowship has righteousness with lawlessness? And what communion has light with darkness? [15] And what accord has Christ with Belial? ...

**(Hebrews 4:15-16)** 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.

**(Hebrews 2:18)** For in that He Himself has suffered, being tempted, He is able to aid those who are tempted.

**(Exodus 34:6)** And the LORD passed before

him and proclaimed, "The LORD, the LORD God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abounding in goodness and truth,

**(John 14:27)** Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.