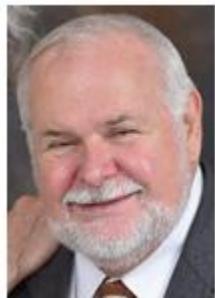


# Scott's Thoughts

January 11, 2026



*“For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 6:23, ESV)*

Death comes all too often. If someone lives into their nineties, we say they had a good long life. If someone dies in their fifties, we lament that they died far too young. Young or old, all deaths are too soon for those who loved them and will now have to live their lives without them. We are reminded that death is the end of life in this realm. I want to go to heaven and spend eternity with God, singing praise to Him, and doing all I can to bring glory to him. I believe in the resurrection of all mankind, for both those who will be raised to live with God in Heaven and for those who will be raised to live in eternal torment.

What will my memories of life here on earth be like in eternity? I’m not sure. But the story of the Rich Man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31) takes place before the resurrection and shows that even though they had died, they had an awareness and a desire for good things for those who still lived. I have desires of good for others, but all I can offer them is the gospel as presented in the scriptures.

What is required of everyone to have hope of eternity with God is clearly spelled out in the Bible. But over the years, people have managed to cover this simple truth with their own version of what they want to believe God has asked of us. As people today read the Bible, they have confusion because they have in their minds a dozen or so different beliefs about

salvation and eternity. They take a little from here and a little from there and wind up with something no one has heard of before.

Salvation from sin is not found in any new revelation. Rather the answer to that question is as old as the New Testament itself. So, why does it take so much effort to find the answer? Because over the last two thousand years people have put forth many self-serving distorted answers and it takes a while to sort through them. Let’s set aside any preconceived notion and ask ourselves, where in the New Testament has someone asked, “What must I do to be saved?” Then carefully read the answer they were given. Let’s not read about it in just one place but read every example we can find. Then we can assemble all those answers and have a full picture of what God wants from us.

It is worth the time it takes to know for sure and to be absolutely certain that we have obeyed the true will of God.

*“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8, ESV)*

Thanks for listening and keep on shining

—Scott