

Intro.

- A. When do you especially need reassuring? dress up occasion, retirement investment, serious illness; car accident ...
1. God **knows** that we need assurance, so He has provided great assurances for us.
 - a. **Ac. 2:36**
 - b. **Ac. 17:31**
 - c. **Heb. 10:22**
 2. John addressed the need of assuring believers, **1 Jn. 3:19-21**
- B. If you look in **Jn. 11:21-27**, you & I find a message that should soothe our minds as we face one of the most challenging times in life – when a loved one dies.
1. **vs. 21**, death (it’s not God’s fault)
 2. **vs. 27**, “I believe” == faith, assurance
 3. **vs. 32**, there is despair without God
 4. **vs. 39**, (Martha still doesn’t get it.)

Discuss.**I. COMMITMENT OF LIFE: “Believes”****A. Definition**

1. as directed toward Jesus: *“used especially of the faith by which a man embraces Jesus, i.e., conviction, full of joyful trust, that Jesus is the Messiah—the divinely appointed author of eternal salvation in the kingdom of God, cojoined with obedience to Christ”* (Thayer, p. 511).
2. Don’t forget the divine definition of **faith**, **Heb. 11:1** (*concretely essence; support; assurance*)

B. Demonstration of true belief

1. Some of Pharaoh’s servants believed & responded to warning God gave before 7th plague, **Ex.9:20f**
2. *Trust & obey! Do what you believe.*
3. Where was the man who believed & left cattle in field?...or who didn’t believe & put them under shelter

C. Deeds of true belief.

1. **Psa. 37:3-5**
2. Remember - question Jesus posed, **Lk. 6:46** *Why do you call me Lord, & do not the things which I say?*
3. If really desire the confidence of **2 Tm. 4:8** then develop the confidence described in **2 Tm. 1:12**.

II. CENTER OF LIFE: “In Me”**A. Correct** object of faith.

1. The only name Salvation can be found in is name of **Jesus Christ** (lame healed, Ac. 3), **Ac. 4:12(& 10)**
2. Therefore, Paul stated forcefully, *For me to live is Christ...*

B. Confirmed object of faith.

1. **Jn. 20:30-31**
2. Christ was shown to be the *Son of God with power...by the resurrection from the dead*, **Rom. 1:4**

C. Confident object of faith.

1. *If we hold the beginning of our confidence steadfast to the end, then we become partakers of Christ*, **Heb. 3:14**
 - a. (**c. Eph. 3:6** – fellow heirs...partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel) **Heb. 3:1**
 - b. holy brethren = partakers of ~ heavenly calling, & should *consider the...High Priest of our confessio*
2. Confident hope in the resurrection characterizes those who believe that Jesus died & rose again, **(1 Th.4:12-13)**

III. CONSEQUENCE TO LIFE: “Shall Never Die”**A. Man’s greatest fear**, DEATH.

1. *I will put my trust in Him (c. Isa. 8:17) Heb. 2:13, vs. 14f, through death He destroyed him who had the power of death... & released those who through the fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*
2. **2 Cor. 5:4** in this physical life we come to understand pain & suffering, which is sometimes most intense just prior to death.

B. Man's greatest *foe*.

1. *No one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit, & no one has power in the day of death, **Ecc. 8:8***
2. Death is described as *man's last enemy, **1 Cor. 15:26***

C. Man's greatest *future*.

1. Realized in *the testimony of Christ...the sufferings for the gospel...which are according to God's purpose & grace, **2 Tm. 1:8ff**, & by Christ God abolished death & brought immortality...thru... gospel.*
2. **1 Cor. 15:58** gives encouragement & promise (as does **Isa. 55:8-11**)

Concl.

- A. God has done all that is needed through Christ to provide redemption & hope, **Tit. 1:2-3**
- B. You and I must weigh the evidence about Christ & decide whether or not we will trust & obey Him.
- C. Since all spiritual blessings are in Christ (**Eph. 1:3**), the choice you need to make should be obvious.