

Footprints on the sands of time

Tell me not, in mournful numbers, life is but an empty dream!
For the soul is dead that slumbers, and things are not what they seem.

Life is real! life is earnest! And the grave is not its goal;
Dust thou art, to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul.

Not enjoyment, and not sorrow, is our destined end or way;
But to act that each tomorrow, find us farther than today.

Lives of great men all remind us, we can make our lives sublime,
And, departing leave behind us, footprints on the sands of time;

Footprints, that perhaps another, sailing o'er life's solemn main,
A forlorn and shipwrecked brother, seeing shall take heart again.

The Lord Jesus asked a question, *"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?"* (Mark 8:36-37). We cannot take anything with us when we leave this life, all we can do is leave an impression of our life behind us, a 'footprint' as Longfellow called it. Most people live such lives, that they leave a good footprint behind them, and they are sadly missed, while others live such lives of selfishness and evil, that no-one want to remember them. But this earthly life we have, is not all there is to our existence. As Longfellow expressed it, 'Dust thou art, to dust returnest, was not spoken of the soul.' Our soul lives on after our body dies.

After creation, Adam and Eve lived with God in the Garden of Eden, and that was God's plan for every one of us; but when Adam and Eve sinned, they were kicked out of Eden, and separated from God, and so, every one of us were born separated from God. We can live our whole lives separated from Him, and unless we do something about the sin that separates us, we will die still separated from him, and go to hell, then the Judgement, and the end of our existence in the lake of Fire.

But the Bible tells us in 2 Peter 3:9, *'God is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.'* It is not God's desire that any person should go to the

lake of fire, because it was not created for humans. The Lord Jesus said it was '*created for the devil and his angels* (demons).' (Matthew 25:41).

So, God gives every person the opportunity in their lifetime, to choose where they will spend eternity, with Him, or without Him. But unfortunately, too many people never take that opportunity, they never make the choice for themselves, and they lose by default.

Jesus died in our place on Calvary, so God *could* forgive our sins. As the Bible tells us, '*While we were yet sinners, Christ died for the ungodly.*' (Romans 5:8). All we have to do is, confess to Him that we are sinners, and invite Him into our lives. It's as simple as praying, "Lord I confess that I am a sinner. Please forgive my sins, and come into my life, and be my saviour, and Lord of my life." That is what it takes to take away the sin that separates us from our creator.

How can you be sure that your sins are forgiven? 1 John 1:9 promises, '*If we confess our sins, He (God) is just and faithful to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.*' So, if God has forgiven our sins, then we are sinless in His sight. And if He has cleansed us from all unrighteousness, then we are righteous in His sight; and eternal life begins for us from that moment, as a son or daughter of God.

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