



## ALONE

This word strikes fear in the hearts and minds of men. To be alone is not viewed as good. Mankind is a social being. Everyone to various degrees need someone to be with them. The Covid-19 pandemic has heightened our understanding of the importance of not being alone. Yet today, many are alone some due to inability to move about in daily activities or perhaps in a nursing home where loved ones are not allowed to visit. Others have lost their spouse and now are in a sense alone. Others never married and live alone. For many people in any one of these circumstances they are truly alone. They have no one to call on or to turn to in times of loneliness or distress. However, for many others in similar circumstances they are not alone and do have someone to turn to in periods of loneliness or distress. The differences between the two groups is CHRIST in the lives of one group and absent in the lives of the other group.

Christians are never completely alone. A Christian is the temple of God where God dwells in the form of the Holy Spirit which they received when they believed and confessed that Jesus is the Son of God, repented of their sins, and were immersed for the remission of their sins and received the Holy Spirit as an indwelling of God who will never leave them. Thus, there is a vast difference between a Christian and a non-Christian when they face situations in this world where they are physically alone. The non-Christian in these situations is truly alone with no one to turn to for help; however, the Christian is never truly alone. God is always with him or her.

I know something about being physically alone since Diane, my spouse, passed on to her reward over 9 years ago, but I don't know the depression of the non-Christian who is physically alone. Although living physically alone, I am not alone because God in the Holy Spirit is always with me. I know many in our congregation of Christians are

living physically alone and this pandemic has increased this physical aloneness. Some have lost their spouse, some marriages have dissolved, some have never been married, some may be the last survivor of their family or various other reason to find themselves seemingly alone in the world. But Christians are never truly alone. God in the form of the Holy Spirit lives inside these individuals on an individual basis. Where the Spirit of God is, there is light, hope, help, companionship, and an enduring confidence that they have help in this world and will be with God for eternity. So, when the soul leaves this body and returns to God who gave it, Christians know that God has truly not left them, but has been with them in this physical life and will be with them through eternity. When a Christian dies his soul, the true essence of him, goes to paradise where he or she is at rest with God. Not so when a non-Christian dies, their soul goes to a place of eternal separation from God pictured as a lake of fire into which they will be thrown at judgement where dwells the devil and his angels.

Christ said a few hours before he was crucified and while talking with His disciples **John 16:32-33 (ESV)** *Behold, the hour is coming, indeed it has come, when you will be scattered, each to his own home, and will leave me alone. Yet I am not alone, for the Father is with me. I have said these things to you, that in me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation. But take heart; I have overcome the world.* God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit are three manifestations of the one God. Just as Jesus said he was not alone, the Father was with him, I as a Christian am not ever alone, not now and not in eternity because God through the Holy Spirit has made my body His temple and He will never leave me alone. Thank God for His unspeakable gift.

- Johnnie N. Jenkins