



“Death is an evangelist. He looks us in the eye and asks us to look him right back with a steady gaze and allow him to do his work in us. Death is a preacher with a very simple message. Death has an invitation for us. He wants to teach us that the day of our coming death can be a friend to us in advance. The very limitation that death introduces into our life can instruct us about life. Think of it as death’s helping hand...It’s very important to be clear: the person who lives like this is not morbid. On the contrary, what characterizes a person who lives like this is depth; they have depth of soul, depth of character...Have you ever met people like this? They’re actually fully alive because they know that they have it all on loan-it’s a gift-and that one day God will simply call time, but when he does, they’re ready to go. So ask yourself, is your future shaping your present?”
– David Gibson

“The word radiates sweet, triumphant continuance. C.S. Lewis had this right in *The Last Battle* where it is explained to the deceased children that ‘they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read, which goes on forever, in which every chapter is better than the one before.’ Final ‘departure’ was the culmination of Paul’s long-held dream that he had earlier expressed to

the Philippians saying, ‘I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far.’” – Kent Hughes

**“The ‘far better’ dominated Paul’s thoughts, as it should ours.”
– Kent Hughes**

“Even if I am being poured out as a drink offering upon the sacrificial offering of your faith, I am glad and rejoice with you all.” – Phil. 2:17

“Dying well is one of the good works to which Christians are called, and Christ will enable us who serve him to die well...” – J.I. Packer

**“Do you see what God has called you to clearly enough to identify the arena of the fight you must fight today, the course you must run today, the threats from which you must keep ‘the faith’ today?”
– John Kitchen**

“It is crucial that all Christians see their life as a warfare. That is not all it is. But it is that, always.” – John Piper

“Those who will receive the crown are defined in terms of their ‘love’ for Christ’s return. The perfect tense signifies that this ‘love’ has constantly characterized their lives.” – George Knight

“A group of us were huddled around Jaymes Morgan, the young theology teacher who was saying something about the engagement of Christians in social justice. I don’t remember what I said but he looked me right in the eye and said, ‘John, I love Jesus Christ.’ It was like a thunderclap in my heart. A strong, intelligent, mature, socially engaged man had just said out loud in front of a half dozen men, ‘I love Jesus Christ.’ He was not preaching. He was not pronouncing on any issue. He was not singing in church. He was not trying to get a

job. He was not being recorded. He was telling me that he loved Jesus. The echo of that thunderclap is still sounding in my heart. That was 40 years ago! There are a thousand things I don't remember about those days in seminary. But that afternoon remains unforgettable. And all he said was, 'John, I love Jesus Christ.'"

– John Piper

“So here at the beginning of 2009, I join Jaymes Morgan in saying, ‘I love Jesus Christ.’ And as I say it, I want to make clear what I mean:

***I admire Jesus Christ more than any other human or angelic being.**

***I enjoy his ways and his words more than I enjoy the ways and words of anyone else.**

***I want his approval more than I want the approval of anyone else.**

***I want to be with him more than I want to be with anyone else.**

***I feel more grateful to him for what he has done for me than I do anyone else.**

***I trust his words more fully than I trust what anyone else says.**

***I am more glad in his exaltation than in the exaltation of anyone else, including me.**

Would you pray with me that in 2009 we would love Jesus Christ more than we ever have? And may our Lord Jesus grant that from time to time we would deliver quietly and naturally a thunderclap into the hearts of others with the simple words, ‘I love Jesus Christ.’"

– John Piper