When It’s All Been Said and Done

(Ian Ridpath)

2 Peter 1:3-11

SONG: (When It’s All Been Said & Done)

I) God’s Promises

The words of this song say:

“When it’s all been said and done, did I live my life for You?”

And our reply should only be “Lord, I lived my life for You.”

Jesus said that He gave us life to live for Him.

He gave us life to have a relationship with Him.

He gave up His life so that we may have life abundantly on this earth.

- He didn’t give us life to be self-sufficient.
- He didn’t give us life to be an island to ourselves.
- He didn’t promise us freedom from trials and tribulations.
- He didn’t promise us earthly wealth.
- He didn’t promise us great jobs.
- He didn’t promise us perfect families.
- He didn’t promise us perfect health.
But He did give us many wonderful promises …

- He promised He would love us …
- He promised we would be His sons and daughters …
- He promised everything He has is ours …
- He promised He would not forsake us (Hebrews 13:5)
- He promised He would give us anything that we asked for in His will
- He promised He would be our refuge in times of trouble (Psalm 46:1)
- He promised He would save all those who confess that He is Lord
- He promised the Holy Spirit (John 15:26)
- He promised Spiritual gifts …
- He promised us power through the Holy Spirit (Acts 1:8)
- He promised we can do even greater things than He did (John 14:12)
- He promised we would share His kingdom in Heaven …
- He promised an “greater prize” at the end of the race (Hebrews 11:40)
- He promised we would forever be with Him in Heaven (John 11:25)
- He promised He would return … (John 14:3)
That is what Peter meant when he said “… **He has given us** all of his rich and **wonderful promises**…”

What use is anything promised, if we do not take advantage of the promise?

We can promise our children a gift or a trip or an ice cream cone on a hot day … but what use is our promise, unless we follow through?

If we don’t follow through, bitterness and frustration and mistrust take place.

God doesn’t make promises He cannot keep…

Let me repeat - God doesn’t make promises He cannot keep.

Has that really sunk in?

He CANNOT make promises that He can’t keep … it is contrary to the very nature of God!

What specifically has God promised you?

How would you ever know what He has promised?

Have you ever promised Him anything?

- Oh, God, I promise to stop driving so fast …
- Oh, God, I promise to stop drinking so much …
- Oh God, I promise to cut down on the amount of television I watch
- Oh God, I promise to spend more time with my family.
Our promises to God are meaningless if they are based on us doing something.

We can rarely change anything using our own will power.

We can promise all we want … but we are doomed to failure because we quite often make those promises based on guilt, shame and frustration.

II God makes His promises by Covenant …

In Genesis 15 – God promised that Abraham would have descendants as numerous as the stars and that he would inherit a land forever.

Abraham received that promise by FAITH and he was declared RIGHTEOUS because of his faith.

That covenant was written in blood.

All of God’s covenants are written in blood! – it may sound yukky but we cannot escape the fact that God requires a sacrifice of blood to make His creation HOLY.

After they sinned, Adam and Eve were clothed in animal skins – not synthetic fabrics – there was blood shed.

Abraham’s covenant was ratified by the splitting of animal carcasses.

The LAW given to Moses was upheld by the blood of goats and bulls and lambs …but that only covered the people for a while – it did not take away their sins.

And the new covenant in Jesus Christ was written in His blood.
We probably all know people who have said…”If I had to do it all over again, I would …”

It is utterly a waste to have gone through life without Jesus.

It would be tragic to have gone through life KNOWING ABOUT Jesus but not KNOWING Jesus.

It would be tragic to say when it’s all been said and done…

“I knew about Jesus.”
“I read my Bible every day.”
“I went to church every Sunday.”
“I was on the Worship Team”
“I was an Elder”
“I was a Sunday School teacher.”

“But I don’t really know if I am saved … I don’t really know if Jesus truly loved me … I don’t know if I really did enough for Him.”

The GOOD NEWS is that Jesus loves you because Jesus loves you, because Jesus loves you. The Bible tells you so!

**SONG: (Jesus Love Me)**

My wife and I have a Marriage Certificate that says … “Ian Ridpath and Marg Ridpath were married on July 17, 1997”. Not … “Ian Ridpath and Marg Ridpath were sort-of married” or “Ian Ridpath and Marg Ridpath were partially married.”

We were and are married … 100% married … all the time married … day and night married … in sickness and in health married … in good times and in bad times married … in Jesus Christ married!
The same is true for being saved and being born-again. In John 3, Christ told Nicodemus “I assure you, unless you are born again, you can never see the Kingdom of God.” Nicodemus was a religious teacher, but he still Christ a HEAD question “How can an old man go back into his mother’s womb?”

Christ answered his HEAD question with a HEART answer.

In verse 4 Jesus said “The truth is, no one can enter the Kingdom of God without being born of water and the Spirit.”

Friends, you are either born again or you are not born again. There is no partial birth.

You are either 100% saved or you are 100% unsaved! There is no partial saving!

So, if we are born again, how do we grow in our righteousness or holiness? Do we want to be holy – separated from the world yet in the world? Do we want to run the race, as Paul said, to the end where we know there is a heavenly prize waiting for us?

III Seven Steps to Holiness

The second letter of Peter gives us seven steps to holiness … ending in the assurance that the “gates of heaven will be flung open for us”

Let’s look at them.
Starting in verse 5. “So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life.”

Do you remember the promises of God?

Your **faith** (believing God’s promises) is the start of your journey to holiness.

**1. Faith produces a life of moral excellence …**
Oh, oh … internet pornography, adult movies, looking at others with lust … Moral excellence means considering your spouse as your only sexual partner. Being truthful with everyone, at home or at work and in the church.

**2. Moral excellence leads to knowing God better.**
How does that work? How can moral excellence lead to knowing God better?

We can only know that what God expects from His children when we get to know who He is … and we can only do that by getting into his WORD.

When Christ is the centre of our thoughts, our actions and our words, then we will be pleasing to God and bear fruits of a morally excellent person. We can only do that when we know Him!

**3. Knowing God leads to self-control.**
We cannot will our own self-control. We cannot will our own goodness. Only God can put the desire to do His will in our hearts.

**4. Self-control leads to patient endurance.**
This is one of the big things that I struggle with … patient endurance especially in line-ups at banks, stores and the like. I know that God will give me that patience as He has given me so many other things. But, I must have faith in that. I must get to know Him.
5. Patient endurance leads to godliness (holiness, righteousness).

Some of us have a problem with the words ‘godliness’ or ‘holiness’ and ‘righteousness’ as though they have an aloofness about them. They are only for Pastors and Preachers and Saintly people. Jesus died to make you righteous – He died to make you holy, He said ...”Be holy as I am holy”. We deny Jesus when we deny our right to be righteous and holy.

If you are not growing day by day to be more holy and more righteous and more God-like, then you may have to ask some hard questions.

If you are not more holy today than you were yesterday, then you may not be growing in Christ. He loves us too much to leave us where we are!

6. Godliness leads to love for other Christians.

Do you love other Christians? All other Christians? Is there anyone in your church who you don’t love? Is there anyone you don’t like being around or anyone who you have something against? Is there anyone who has something against you?

Jesus said “They will know that you are mine (Christians) if you show love for one another.”

This is His first commandment in the New Covenant … it covers all the Ten Commandments and laws of the Old Covenant, the LAWs of Moses.

Lastly, Peter said …

7. And finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone.

This is the great commandment! Love your neighbour as yourself.

There is no greater love than this - that a man should lay down his life for his brother.
Friends, we can never **DO** enough earn our salvation …

We can never **DO** enough to gain entry into Heaven …

… except

… by declaring in public that I am a sinner,

… that I have fallen short of and am separated from God,

… that Jesus Christ died for my sins,

… that I now repent and turn from those sins and

… that I now ask Jesus to be my Lord and Saviour.

There will be celebrating in Heaven if anyone here would pray that prayer. If there is, then now is the appointed time.

When it has all been said and done, what are you going to say to God when He asks …

“What did you do with my Son?

What did you do when its all been said and done?”

Let us pray.
Scripture References for When It’s All Been Said and Done

2 Peter 1: 3-11

3. As we know Jesus better, His divine power gives us everything we need for living a godly life. He has called us to receive his own glory and goodness!

4. And by that same mighty power, He has given us all of his rich and wonderful promises. He has promised that you will escape the decadence all around you caused by evil desires and that you will share in his divine nature.

5. So make every effort to apply the benefits of these promises to your life. Then your faith will produce a life of moral excellence. A life of moral excellence leads to knowing God better.

6. Knowing God leads to self-control. Self-control leads to patient endurance, and patient endurance leads to godliness.

7. Godliness leads to love for other Christians, and finally you will grow to have genuine love for everyone.

8. The more you grow like this; the more you will become productive and useful in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

10. So, dear brothers and sisters, work hard to prove that you really are among those God has called and chosen. Doing this, you will never stumble or fall away.

11. And God will open wide the gates of heaven for you to enter into the eternal Kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
Ephesians 1:3 to 8

Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.

For He chose us in Him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in His sight.

In love He predestined us to be adopted as his sons through Jesus Christ, in accordance with His pleasure and will -- to the praise of His glorious grace, which He has freely given us in the One He loves.

In Him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace that He lavished on us with all wisdom and understanding.