

myself with the uncertainties of the time or manner of my death; I need concern myself only with the way I live.

Yes, life is filled with contingencies, and I am dependent for my welfare on so many human factors, but I know that God has taken these all into account, and rules and overrules them so that they issue in glory for Him and ultimate good for me.

D. What is a Christian response to ultimate concern over the question of what death is, and what lies beyond it?

The Lord Jesus Christ Himself has given us His word that in His Father's house are many dwelling places, and that if this were not true He would have told His disciples. He said that He was going to prepare a place for them (and those who would come after and believe in Him), that where He would be is where they would also be. He promised that He would come again and receive us to Himself, that where He is, we might be also.

The apostle Paul, writing with apostolic authority, said that to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord; and that he would rather depart from this life and be with his Savior and Lord.

Some years ago Peter Marshall, in a sermon delivered in the chapel at the Naval Academy in Annapolis, gave the following illustration. He said:

"In a home of which I know, a little boy, the only son, was ill of an incurable disease. Month after month the mother had tenderly read to him, nursed him, and played with him, hoping to keep him from realizing the dreadful finality of the doctor's diagnosis. But as the weeks went by and he grew no better, the little fellow gradually began to understand the meaning of the term "death." And he too knew that soon he was to die. One day the mother had been