



Diocese of
Guildford

TRANSFORMING CHURCH
TRANSFORMING LIVES



WELCOME TO

EMMAUS

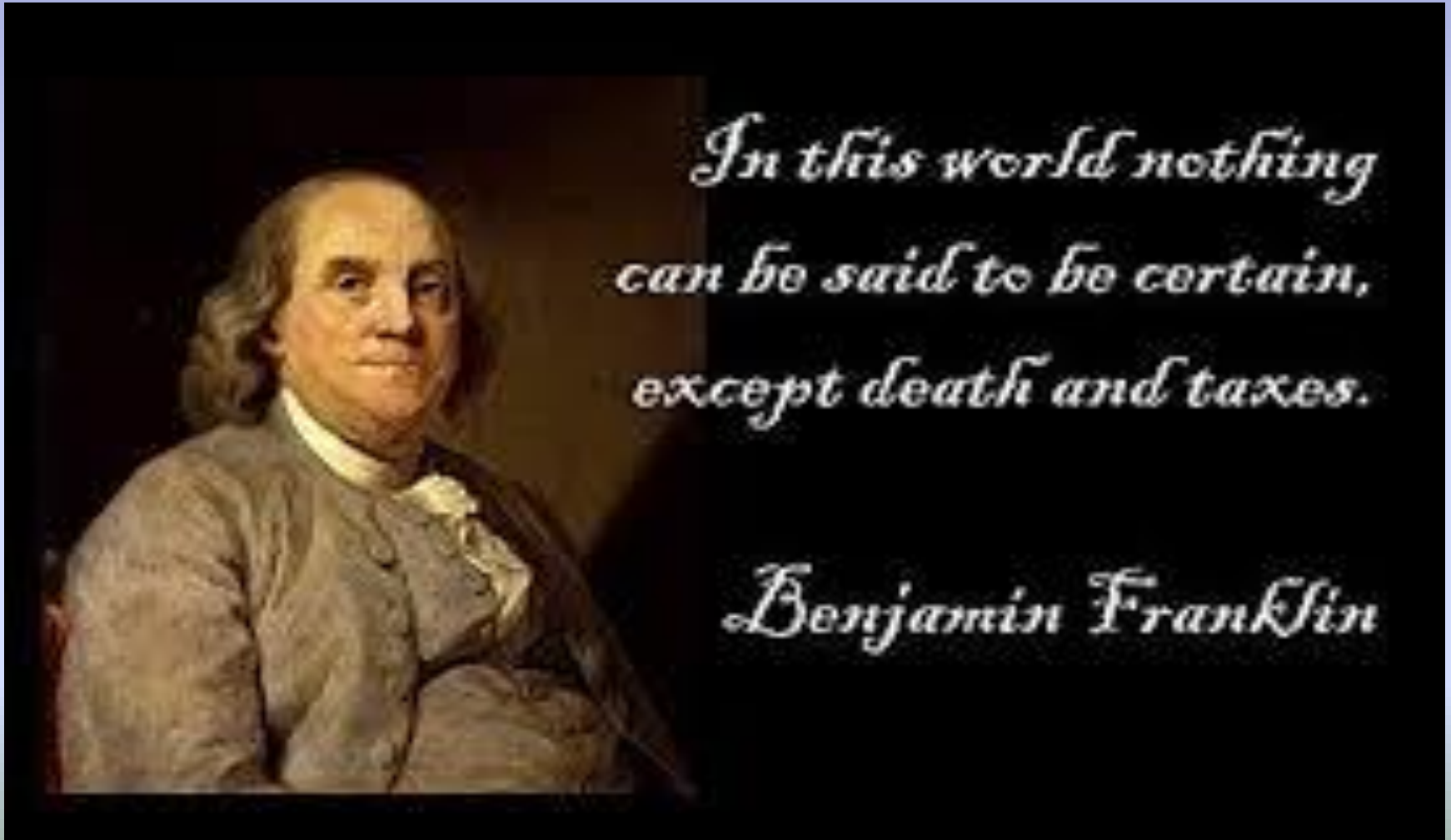
**AT ST MARY'S CHURCH
THORPE**

BECOMING A CHRISTIAN

Week 12

Thinking about life after death

Over the years many have questioned why death is very much a reality of life



Wrestling over the reality of death the concept of humanity's 'Original Sin' has been offered as means of helping people understand how a perfect world, created by a loving God, has life which eventually comes to at end.



Temptation come in a various of forms



***But as we know even unseen actions
– so often have repercussion***

***And its so easy to shift
the blame elsewhere***





***And consequently, paradise was lost
as relationship between God and humanity
was fractured***

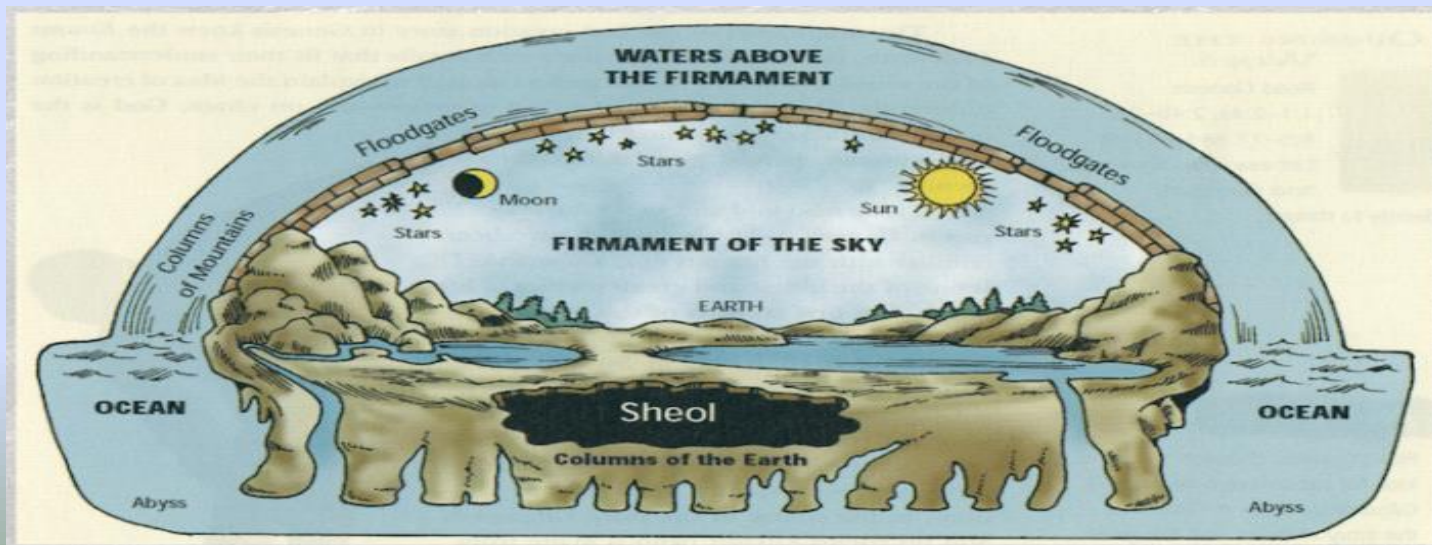
**So mortality became part of humanities journey
But where was the final destination?**

Early scripture describes a dark forbearing underworld of no return

***For in death there is no remembrance of you: in Sheol who can give
you praise?*** ***Psalm 6.5***

The dead do not praise the Lord, nor do any that go down into silence
Psalm 115.17

***For Sheol cannot thank you, death cannot praise you; those who go
down to the Pit cannot hope for your faithfulness.***
Isaiah 38.18



However, as the presence of the Holy Spirit continued to develop people's understanding of the loving parental nature of God another option started to offer people hope

Everything that the Father gives me will come to me, and anyone who comes to me I will never drive away; for I have come down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him who sent me. And this is the will of him who sent me, that I should lose nothing of all that he has given me but raise it up on the last day. This is indeed the will of my Father, that all who see the Son and believe in him may have eternal life; and I will raise them up on the last day

John 6.37-40

I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies

John 11.25-26

Truly, I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise

Luke 23.43



But how was this promise of everlasting life going to be achieved?

The Second Coming (*Parousia*) a belief reinforced and publicly announced in the words of The Nicene Creed (during the Sunday Eucharist) reminds the world that Jesus would physically return to the earth....*In accordance with the scriptures, he (Jesus) ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead, and his kingdom will have no end.*

All of which may explain why some chosen to be buried as apposed to being cremated for does Jesus need our body complete if he is going them up to Heaven?



So we have Sheol (Hell) and eternal paradise (Heaven) but the concept of a middle ground felt necessary which is where the idea of Purgatory came into play. A time/state of preparation cleansing your soul before moving toward Heaven

***Now is the judgement of this world
John 12.31***

Some Christians also feel the Heaven is not some reward for services rendered 'down here' but simply of another example of God's generous heart

***For by grace you have been saved through faith,
and this is not your own doing ; it is the gift of God
Ephesians 2.8***

***Whereby others stress the Day of Judgement when our deeds
will be taken into account***

***When the Son of Man comes in glory and all the angels with him,
then he will sit on the throne of his glory.***

***All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will
separate people one from another as a shepherd
separates the sheep from the goats***

Matthew 25. 31-32



Returning to our opening quotations. Yes we all know death is inevitable and the passing on a loved one can stir up a mixture of emotions

Nevertheless – the timeless promise of Jesus has and continues to ease the concern for what befall for our loved ones whose earthly life has come to a close

In my Father's House, there are many dwelling places. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself so that where I am there you may be also

John 14 1-3

Merciful Father, hear our prayers and comfort us; renew our trust in your Son, whom you raised from the dead; strengthen our faith that all who have died in the love of Christ will share in his resurrection; who lives and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen