

RIVER OF DEATH, SHINING ONES DIGGING DEEPER

1. Read Genesis 5 and 2 Kings 2. What do these passages teach about how these men entered the presence of God?

2. Why must we all go through the River of Death before we enter heaven?

3. Read Isaiah 43:1–2. Are you ready to pass through the River of Death? Why or why not? If not, how can you become ready?

4. What five things that characterize the “paradise of God” are you most looking forward to? Why?

5. Research some different “death-bed exercises” that have been recorded. Choose two and compare and contrast them to each other and to the experiences Christian and Hopeful had. What can you learn from these exercises? (See A.A. Alexander, *Christian Experience*, Banner of Truth.)

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6. Christian tells Hopeful, “It is you they wait for; for you have been hopeful ever since I knew you.” In what ways has Hopeful lived up to his name?

7. If Bunyan were to write your life into one of his allegories, what do you think he would call you? What would you *want* him to call you? How do you need to grow and change so that you can live up to that name?
