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*Rise in the presence of the aged,  
show respect for the elderly...  
Leviticus 19:32a*

Of Counsel  
John Newman  
Irene V. Villacci  
Louis W. Pierro

## Last Will & Testament Preambles for Christians

A Preamble for a Christian is a way for you to begin your Last Will and Testament or Trust with a simple, personal statement of faith. It is a lasting opportunity to proclaim your love of the Lord to family and friends.

When planning a Last Will and Testament, many people focus only on distributing their money, property and possessions. A Christian Preamble allows you to share your true wealth: your belief in Jesus Christ and His gift of everlasting life

A Christian Preamble is:

- A source of comfort to mourning family and friends. They are reassured that their loved one died in faith, sure of God's promise of eternal life.
- A powerful message of love and encouragement, urging others to trust in Jesus Christ and strengthen their own faith.
- A public record of Christian love (when used with a Will). Because a Will is filed in probate court, a Christian Preamble becomes a public record.

On the pages that follow there are 25 examples of paragraphs and language that you might use in your Will or Trust as a final statement of your Christian faith. You can select an entire paragraph or a portion of one or a combination of different paragraphs to be placed within your Will or Trust. You of course, may alter, edit or add to any of the paragraphs as you see fit. Perhaps you want to include favorite Bible verses or your final prayers for loved ones, mentioning them by name and encouraging them to grow in faith.

Should you wish to include such a Preamble, please advise of your selection(s) or provide us with an electronic copy of your own custom Preamble prior to your scheduled document signing.

CERTIFIED ELDER LAW ATTORNEY

*Certified Elder Law Attorney by the National Elder Law Foundation which is not affiliated with any government authority. Certification is not a requirement for the practice of law in NYS and does not necessarily indicate greater competence than other attorneys experienced in this field of law.*

## **#1**

I do hereby testify that I am a Christian. I have placed all my hope of life hereafter in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His death and resurrection have given my life meaning and make my death a peaceful passage to eternal life in heaven. I want my family and friends to know that for me to live was Christ, and to die is gain.

## **#2**

Rejoice with me as I declare my completed faith in Jesus Christ my Savior. I am totally convinced by faith that after this life of joys and sorrow, accomplishments and failures, I will live eternally in heaven. This is possible not because I have earned or deserved it, but because Jesus died in my place. I now live with him.

## **#3**

I want all who read this to know that there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that upon death I will enter heaven. I will do so, not by my own worthiness, but only through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Savior, who paid the price for my soul's redemption through his death on the cross. For me to live was Christ, and to die is gain. I commend my loved ones into the hands of the Lord and encourage them to place their faith and trust in him alone for their salvation.

## **#4**

I want all who read this to know that Jesus Christ is my Savior. I have no doubt about my being saved by him or my being in heaven. I ask my children, whom I love, never to forget the instructions Christ has given to us, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every nation." Share God's Word with everyone at home and abroad. May God grant you peace, love, and strength as he guides you through this life. Then at the end of time, we will be reunited in heaven as a happy family.

## **#5**

I commit myself to God's care, secure in his love for me and trusting in the salvation purchased for me through Christ's suffering and death. I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and have now joined my Lord in eternal glory. I commend my loved ones to the protecting arms of God, knowing that he will continue to provide for them despite my absence; and I encourage them to place their faith and trust in him alone.

## **#6**

I want all who read this to know that Jesus Christ is my Savior and that there is absolutely no doubt in my mind that upon death I will enter into heaven. I will do so, not by my own worthiness, but through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Savior, and his death on the cross.

## **#7**

Realizing the uncertainty of this life, and with full confidence and trust in my Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, in His death on the cross and shed blood as an atonement for my sins, and knowing that by faith I have eternal life through His sacrifice on the cross for me, do hereby make public and declare this to be my Last Will and Testament.

## **#8**

My heartfelt desire is that each of my loved ones might know the love of Jesus Christ and trust in His amazing grace. In His name only can any of us know the perfect assurance and the unspeakable joy which have become my inheritance. If my loved ones and even the whole world should know and share His love, I retain it undiminished. It is my hope and my prayer that Christ's love, which is most precious in my life, will be the most cherished legacy of all my loved ones. I thank the heavenly Father for His bountiful blessings.

## **#9**

I commend my loved ones to the protecting arm of God, knowing that He will continue to provide for them despite my absence; and I encourage them to place their faith and trust in Him alone.

## **#10**

Realizing the uncertainty of this life, I place full confidence and trust in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who promised: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me, though he were dead yet shall he live; and whosoever liveth and believeth in Me shall never die." John 11:25-26.

## **#11**

Knowing that the wages of sin is death, I believe that Jesus Christ, the only Son of God, suffered and died for the forgiveness of all my sins, which I neither deserve nor merit, but receive as a free gift of God, who is rich in Grace and mercy. Third, I urge my heirs not to set their hope on uncertain riches, but to take hold of the life which is life indeed through faith in Jesus Christ.

## **#12**

I want my loved ones to know that I place full confidence and trust in my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, who promised: "I am the resurrection and the life; he that believeth in Me shall never die." (John 11:25-26)

## **#13**

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## **#14**

I leave to all of my loved ones the words of our Savior, found in John 3:16; "For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life." I leave those who survive me the comfort of knowing that I have died in this faith and now have joined my Lord in eternal glory.

## **#15**

I praise God for giving me a loving, caring, Christian helpmate in my wife/husband. She/He has been a blessing to me, and a wonderful mother/father to our children. Knowing that we both share our faith in Jesus as our Savior, we will praise the Lord forever in Heaven.

## **#16**

I pray that the Lord would guard and protect my children. You are very special to me and I thank the Lord for you. Through your baptism you have been received into God's family and I urge you to remain faithful to Christ until you are called home to be with the Lord. I love you and I look forward to eternity with you in heaven.

## **#17**

I pray that the Lord would shower His blessings upon my grandchildren. May the Holy Spirit guide you along the narrow path of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. I urge you to respect your parents and honor them as your parents have honored me.

## **#18**

I recognize that all of my earthly possessions are a gift from God. Therefore, I have made provisions in my will to continue my Christian stewardship after I have gone to Heaven to be with the Lord. I trust that what I offer as a gift will be blessed many times over by the Lord in building His Kingdom.

## **#19**

My heirs will receive, through me, gifts from God. May you always remember that everything you have is a trust from God. Be good and wise stewards of His blessings, managing wisely and returning to Him a generous portion for the work in His Kingdom.

## **#20**

I do hereby testify that I am a Christian. I have placed all my hope of life hereafter in Jesus Christ, the Son of God. His death and resurrection have given my life meaning and make my death a peaceful passage to eternal life in heaven. I want my family and friends to know that for me to live was Christ, and to die is gain.

## **#21**

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## #23

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## #24

I ask my children, whom I have loved so dearly to share God's word with everyone and to always remember how much you were loved. I commend you to the precious arms of God, knowing He will provide for you and I encourage you to place your faith in him alone, and never trust the world for your comfort. I look forward to seeing you all again in our life hereafter, where we will all live with our Lord and Savior.

## #25

Family and friends: don't weep for me but rejoice with me! I am not dead. I am now more alive than I have ever been! I am in my eternal home with my Heavenly Father, living in the mansion that my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ had already prepared for me. I have no pain, no sickness, no stress. I am at peace. I am loved. I am happy beyond words. As I join my family and friends who have gone home before me, know that when our Father calls you home, I will be at the front door of Heaven, along side our Lord, waiting for you with outstretched arms. What a wondrous reunion day that will be!

## **Notes/ Ideas for my own Preamble:**