

The Examiners

...Examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so....Acts 17:11

DEATH & DYING

Death has preoccupied human thought since the beginning of history, either in its physical aspects as the cessation of bodily life and how one ought to prepare for it or in its spiritual aspects as separation from God and how it may be overcome. These perspectives developed out of a variety of strands in the **secular and non-biblical religious literature**, however, there are numerous misconceptions related to this matter such as:

- The punishment of Adam for his sin is physical death.
- All death is the result of personal sins of the individual.
- Only the physical bodies die but the souls are just sleeping.
- Immortality belongs to gods alone and men must become gods to be immortal.
- Physical death is the result of being cut off from God.
- Satan is the lord of death and death itself is demonic power.
- Physical death is an enemy conquered by Christ.
- Physical death is the door to eternity for every individual.
- And many more...

The above mentioned misconceptions are basically the doctrines of the cultic religious sects, which are based from apocryphal teachings and ancient religions. Only the Bible is authoritative to this matter and the only the Lord Jesus Christ has the trustworthy explanations about death. There are seven categories of death mentioned in the Bible and each must be study carefully so as not to bring confusion and not to live in fear of death.

THE BIBLICAL CATEGORIES OF DEATH:

- **Physical death** is the separation of the human soul (in the case of the believer, the humans spirit also) from the body (Matthew 8:22, Romans 8:38, 2 Corinthians 5:1-8).
- **Second death** is the perpetuation of spiritual death into eternal separation from God. It is the final judgment of the both the unbelievers in the human race and fallen angels whereby they are cast into the Lake of Fire forever (Matthew 25:41, Hebrews 9:27, Revelation 20:12-15).
- **Positional death** is part of the baptism of the Holy Spirit which identifies all believers with Christ in His death on the Cross and with His rejection of human good and evil (Romans 6:3-4, Colossians 2:12, 3:3).
- **Operation death** is failure to produce divine good on the part of the reversionistic believer under the influence of evil (James 2:26, 1 Timothy 5:6, Ephesians 5:14, Revelation 3:1).
- **Temporal death** is the status of carnality of the believer out of fellowship through personal sins (Romans 8:6, 13, Ephesians 5:14, 1 Timothy 5:6, James 1:15).
- **Sexual death** is the inability to copulate or bear a child (Romans 4:17-21, Hebrews 11:11-12).
- **Spiritual death** is separation from God. It is the most serious problem of the human race that God solved through the spiritual death of Christ on the Cross. God the Son became a perfect man to solve this problem.

THE LIVING DEAD

Adam was created physically and spiritually alive, without old sinful nature (OSN), immortal without the possibility of physical death because he was perfect, but when he sinned, he died spiritually but remained physically alive. It is the imputation of the penalty of Adam's original sin to the genetically formed sin nature at physical birth results in each person being born physically alive but spiritually dead (Genesis 2:17, Proverbs 14:12, Ezekiel 18:20, Romans 5:12, 6:23, 1 Corinthians 15:22, Ephesians 2:1, 5).

Every human being born into this world is physically alive but spiritually dead because of Adam's original sin. It is Adam's original sin because he sinned when he was sinless, perfect and without OSN. Adam earned the wages of sin for all humanity. We cannot commit the sin of Adam because we are not perfect.

"For the wages of sin is death (spiritual death), but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

We did not earn the wages of sin for ourselves, we did not become sinners by our personal sins but by Adam's sin. In the same way, we did not earn eternal life for ourselves but Christ earned it for us. We are not special like Adam who was created in the image of God (with capacity to do the will of God and to fellowship with God). Adam sinned when he was perfectly sinless before God. We are all disqualified.

We are all born sinners (Adam was created not born) and we did not become sinners by committing a sin. We become sinners by physical birth because the OSN was genetically and biologically transmitted to every cell of our human bodies through procreation (the humanity of Christ was born through spiritual intervention not by procreation).

"For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23).

Spiritually dead people are not capable of any relationship with God. They may create a show of religious activities and piety behind the reality of their separation with God. They have physical life, which compose of biological life and human life (or soul life) without eternal life.

- Human life is the union of the soul life and biological life at the moment the fetus emerges from the womb when God imparts the first 'breath of life' (neshamah).

- Soul life is the life created by God and imparted immediately to the fetus at physical birth. The soul life is perfect when it come out from God but instantly contaminated by OSN upon contact. The soul life is eternal, which cannot be destroyed by anyone or anything and it has the capacity to enjoy fellowship with God in eternity or suffer eternal damnation in hell [see The Examiners Vol. 2 No. 10].

- Biological life composes of cell tissue, genetic information, and the functions necessary to sustain material. Biological is mortal and physical, which does not include a soul, (which is immaterial and immortal). Biological life is not human life but refers to that material body of the human life.

- Eternal life (for believer only) refers to an everlasting relationship with God reserved in heaven for every person the moment they express faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. It is the life of God imputed to believers by the grace of God through faith in Christ Jesus (John 1:11-12, 3:16, 36).

An individual without eternal life is a "living biological life and human life, a body with soul without human spirit, he is a natural man. The human spirit is imputed at the moment of faith in Christ to be the resident of the Holy Spirit (1 Corinthians 2:12-13). The natural man cannot accept the things of God, he cannot understand the Word of God and he will reject every Bible doctrines. He cannot please God by his sincere obedience or religious sacrifices. He must come through Christ (John 14:6).

IT IS TIME TO SAY GOODBYE

"And as it is appointed for men to die once"
(Hebrews 9:27).

Physical death is an appointed event by God at the exact time He designated, not earlier, not later. Nothing can add to the number of days He assigned for our existence on earth and nothing can make our departure earlier than the exact time appointed. There is no such thing as premature death or extended life.

Medical science and technology cannot add a single minute to our total appointed days on earth. God is sovereign over our lives (how long we are going to live), he is sovereign over our death (when we are going to die). Suicide is not evidence that God is not in control of our lives, but on the contrary, it is an evidence of His ultimate sovereignty.

The genius of God in the eternity past, allowed the free will volition of men to decide and do everything they wanted to do. Every human decision was carefully noted and recorded in the divine decree. The complete compilation of human free will decisions for the entire human history was included in the divine decree. Therefore, God has a perfect knowledge of everything and anything. Nothing is unknown to Him. There is nothing He needs to know. The omniscience of God has complete data and information of our most secret affairs and activities.

Those who decided to die by dishonorable suicide will die accordingly, because God respected their decisions. Those who decided to die by high blood pressure by eating too much pork barbecues will suffer physically before they die. The events of our lives today and tomorrow are the results of our decisions yesterday, which God allows to happen. There are no such things as accident in our lives, because it can be preventive. No physical death is accident because God appoints it, and He allows massacre or murder in respect to the free will volition of the victim and the murderer.

Physical death will come whether you are ready for it or not, in a manner you do not expect, in a situation you least think about. The fear of death tortures the human souls with anxieties and worries. The cosmic systems continue to create speculative and presumptive solutions that are useless, but death will come swiftly and suddenly. In the eyes of God, however, it is not sudden but appointed long time ago.

The world advocates extravagant and lucid funeral and memorial plans for the deceased as if death depends on it. People are lured to believe that the living can do something to make the state of the deceased cozy and comfortable through religious rituals and material provision for the dead.

A person nearing his departure may or may not have some kind of consciousness that he is dying. It is because our human souls have consciousness of things related to our spiritual status. An unregenerate person may experience some kind of "premonition" of his coming death and therefore, prepare his loved ones by saying good bye.

However, be careful not to be misled by such premonition because it is not a guarantee of salvation, though the dying person may claim that he is going to God or heaven. It is a wishful thinking, a false hope and speculation of his standing before God. Satan deceives people by thinking that they will see their love ones in heaven.

Either a believer dies with "sin unto death" (if carnal and reversionistic receiving the final phase of divine discipline) or "dying grace" (if spiritually mature receiving the final blessing in time), which depends to his spiritual momentum or spiritual stagnation.

The unbeliever dies with judgment death, (alone or with a group of people), for his rejection of the Lord Jesus Christ. Later, he has to face the Great White Throne Judgment (Hebrews 9:27), and then receive his punishment, the Second death in the Lake of Fire (see The Examiners Vol. 2 No. 10).

THE BELIEVER FACING DEATH

The thought of death produces greater fear in the heart of men, which Satan manipulate and use as a tool to frighten and worry the people of the world (Hebrews 2:14-15). God designed the physical dying of the believer as something wonderful, and something to be anticipated. Dying is designed to be the best, sweetest and tastiest part of living.

However, the plan of God for the individual believer is fulfilled only through the intake of Bible doctrine, therefore only the spiritually matured believer will experience the tremendous blessings and happiness of dying grace.

Physical death is a matter of the sovereignty of God based upon His perfect integrity and omniscient knowledge of all facts (Psalm 68:19-20). It is the means for bringing to an end the sufferings of the advancing saints from the cosmic system. It is also the means for terminating struggle of the advancing believers against the power of darkness.

God may prolong the life of some believers who are positively determine to advance toward spiritual maturity (Psalms 102:19-20, 23-24, 118:18, Proverbs 14:27), God controls the length of our days. The death (sin unto death) of the carnal and reversionist believers does not bring glory to God (Isaiah 38:18). The immature, carnal and ignorant believers cannot face death because the norm and standard function of the soul is either absence or destroyed (Lamentation 1:19-20).

All believers regardless of how they live on earth, whether they remain immature, grow and reach spiritual maturity, or whatever will receive these 10 basic eternal blessings after blessings:

- No appointment with GWT judgment (Hebrews 9:27-28, Romans 8:1)
- Will stand before the Lord face to face (2 Corinthians 5:8)
- Removal of all earthly pains, sorrow and sufferings (Revelation 21:4)

- Will receive eternal inheritance (1 Peter 1:4-5)
- The perpetuation of eternal life (1John 5:11-12, John 10:28)
- A perfect resurrection body (John 11:25)
- Removal of OSN (1 Corinthians 15:55-57)
- Removal of human good & evil
- A new permanent home (John 14:1-6)
- A new perfect family

For spiritually matured believers (in super grace) status God will provide tremendous blessings in dying grace (Psalm 23:4). Dying grace makes death a promotion for such mature believers (Philippians 1:21). Satan will try to destroy or kill such mature believer to prevent them from accumulating more eternal blessing but God will deliver them from death (Job 5:20, Psalms 33:19, 56:13, 116:8).

There are 3 exceptions to dying grace:

- Certain spiritually mature believers who did not experience physical death like Enoch and Elijah (Hebrews 11:5-6)
- All believers of the Great Tribulation (1 Thessalonians 4:17).
- The reversionistic believers of the Church Age will never experience the blessings of dying grace, but will receive the sin unto death. Sin unto death is not caused by any particular sin but by the believer's continues rejection of Bible doctrines (Psalm 118:17-18, 1 John 5:16).

"So Saul died for his trespass, which he committed against the Lord, because of the word of the Lord, which he did not keep; and also because he asked counsel of a medium, making inquiry of it, but did not inquire of the Lord. Therefore He killed him, and turned the kingdom to David the son of Jesse (1 Chronicles 10:13-14).

Maintaining spiritual momentum until death will guarantees the believer's blessings in time and eternity, minus the possibility of sin unto death. Dying grace is the golden bridge transition of the believer from time to eternity. The apostle Paul has completed the course set by God, (he reached the blessing of dying grace (1 Timothy 4:7-8).



www.JRCBDM.com

J. R. Cherreguine Bible Doctrine Ministries
Copyright @2003 -2005