



DEATH

BLOCK THREE

1 CORINTHIANS

15:55

Where, O death, is your victory?, Where, O death, is your sting?

IMPORTANT POINTS

1. When we die our soul does not simply go to sleep and await the resurrection.
2. Death separates the soul from the body.
3. When separated from the body, a believer's soul is immediately present with the Lord.
4. The grave holds a believer's body until the resurrection.
5. Death has no victory and the grave loses its sting in Christ.

Death is a fact.

The Bible says in Hebrews 9 "And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment," but why? Death was not part of the natural order or cycle intended by God – it is the curse for disobedience.

but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.

GENESIS
2:17

Death passed on to all men, because all sinned because Adam sinned. Death entered the world through sin. Death is part of the curse of sin.

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—

ROMANS
5:12

The curse of sin involves physical, spiritual, and eternal dimensions. The wages or payment for sin is death – physical, spiritual and eternal.

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS
6:23

Death is called “the last enemy.”

For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

1 CORINTHIANS
15:25-26

What happens at death? Physical death is variously represented in Scripture. It is spoken of as:

- the death of the body, as distinguished from that of the soul, Matt. 10: 28; Luke 12: 4
- the termination or loss of animal life, Luke 6: 9; John 12: 25
- a separation of body and soul, Eccl. 12: 7; Jas. 2: 26.

Death is also described in the Bible as an “exodus” that involves departing from your body. Luke uses the term when he writes about the experience on the mount of transfiguration – Moses and Elijah are speaking to Jesus about His “departure” – the greek word used here is “exodus.” Peter uses the same word and also uses the metaphor of “the removal of his tent.”

Our body can be described as an “earth suit” for our soul (our mind, emotions, and will) that gives us legitimate expression and communication on this earth. Once the earth suit dies, we no longer have a way to express ourselves, communicate or to exist in the natural world. All continue to exist after death, but in another plane, in heaven for believers in Christ, or in hell.

At death, the souls of believers immediately enter God’s presence and enjoy direct fellowship with Him.

For Christians, death is not to be met with fear, but with joy, because of the prospect and promise of going to be with Christ.

in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

PSALMS

16:11

Physical Death cannot separate us from God's love.

For I am sure that neither death... nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

ROMANS

8:38-39

The Bible uses analogical and metaphorical language to describe a number of things about God and His relationship with man, including death. The Bible likens death to 'sleep' in a number of cases. One reason sleep is used as a metaphor for death is because death is viewed Biblically as only temporary for Christians, just as sleep is temporary. The Souls of the Dead are Conscious not sleeping. When a Christian dies, they are immediately present with the Lord. Revelation tell us that at some point there are souls of martyrs under the altar in heaven – souls that are speaking, praying, communicating with the Lord. They are in heaven and not in the ground, and they are not unconscious or sleeping.

Jesus said his Father is the God of the living, not the dead.

"But that the dead are raised, even Moses showed, in the passage about the bush, where he calls the Lord the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob. Now he is not God of the dead, but of the living, for all live to him." (Luke 20:37-38 ESV)

Moses and Elijah were talking with Jesus on the Mount of Transfiguration – they were in recognizable form, and were able to communicate with Jesus and he with them. (Matthew 17)

Christians have a “blessed hope” – a confident assurance beyond the grave, because Jesus himself conquered death, and will reign until death is completely done away. Through his sacrifice on the cross, Jesus destroyed death and delivered us from the bondage of the fear of death.

Let’s review a story from Luke chapter 16:

“There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish. And besides all this, between us and you a great chasm has been fixed, in order that those who would pass from here to you may not be able, and none may cross from there to us.’ And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house—for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and

