

Word of God Ministry Church Under The Son

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Death

Until Jesus Christ returns to earth, everyone will experience physical death. People are often concerned about death and the process of dying. God's Word contains hundreds of references to death. It is a formidable foe: *"The last enemy that will be destroyed is death" (1 Corinthians 15:26)*; but also a conquered foe: *"Death is swallowed up to in victory" (1 Corinthians 15:54)*. Jesus Christ's death and resurrection have forever changed the meaning of death.

- The Origin Of Physical Death

Romans 5:12, 14 ¹²Therefore, just as through one man sin entered the world, and death through sin, and thus death spread to all men, because all sinned - ¹⁴Nevertheless death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those who had not sinned according to the likeness of the transgression of Adam, who is a type of Him who was to come.

The first humans, Adam and Eve, brought death into the world by disobeying God. After that, death became universal. The consequence of Adam's rebellion against God was that all were made sinners (Romans 5:19). As a result of Adam's disobedience, the condition known as original sin has been passed on to each of us. At the time of their disobedience, Adam and Eve did not immediately die physically. They died spiritually - became separated from God - and eventually suffered physical death.

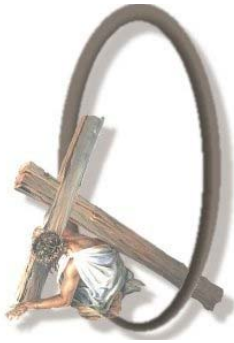
- Preparation For Physical Death

Psalms 90:12, 14 ¹²So teach us to number our days, That we may gain a heart of wisdom. ¹⁴Oh, satisfy us early with Your mercy, That we may rejoice and be glad in all our days!

Moses, the writer of this psalm, requested wisdom from God about how to use each moment of his life. Moses understood that he would physically die and did not want to waste his days. We have no guarantees about the length of our lives. Each day on earth may be our last. The author of Hebrews spoke boldly about the fact that *"here we have no continuing city, but we seek the one to come"* (Hebrews 13:14).

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As Christians, we are prepared for physical death because we know that we will spend eternity with God in heaven. Beyond that, the best way to spend our days is according to God's will. Since He is the ruler of our lives, following His will ensures that we spend time in a way that pleases Him. For those who do not know Christ, the inevitability of death should provoke fear of His judgment. There is no way to prepare for physical death outside of submission to God.

- The Cause Of Spiritual Death

Proverbs 5:21-23 ²¹For the ways of man are before the eyes of the Lord, And He ponders all his paths. ²²His own iniquities entrap the wicked man, And he is caught in the cords of his sin. ²³And shall die for lack of instruction, And in the greatness of his folly he shall go astray.

When Adam and Eve committed the first sin, it brought spiritual death into the world. Since God cannot tolerate the presence of sin, they were separated from Him. So we, too, are naturally separated from God and spiritually dead. We have inherited a sinful nature. While here on earth, we suffer the consequences of sin; but those who have not accepted Christ as their Savior will also suffer eternal consequences for sin. God sent Jesus into the world to die on the cross as the way to bring us back into relationship with Him. As Christians, we are no longer spiritually dead.

- Death Of The Righteous

John 14:1-3 ¹Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ²In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.

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Jesus promised that He has prepared a place in heaven for Christians. At death, a Christian's spirit enters immediately into the presence of the Lord. Physical death is only a transition from earth to heaven. Death does not alter the continuity of the relationship; it only enriches it. The apostle Paul wrote to various churches about the promise of the resurrection from the dead. Because some disciples in the early church began to lose hope that Christ would return, the apostle Paul encouraged them with God's promise of heaven (1 Corinthians 15:51-57).

The Bible teaches that someday the "dead in Christ" are going to be resurrected, and the living will be caught up together with them (1 Thessalonians 4:16, 17). At that time we will receive new bodies. We don't know exactly what these new bodies will be like, except that they will be spiritual, permanent, and glorious. *"And as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly Man" (1 Corinthians 15:49).*

Christians have hope beyond the grave. *"If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men the most pitiable" (1 Corinthians 15:19).* The reuniting of living believers with those who have died before the coming of the Lord is part of the "blessed hope" to which Christians look forward (Titus 2:13).

A Christian can confront death realistically, yet victoriously. Though inevitable and yet often unexpected, death should not catch us off guard. God's promises can calm our fears. For Christians, death is the moment when we no longer see "in a mirror, dimly," but rather, "face to face" (1 Corinthians 13:12).

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