

"WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT... DEATH AND DYING!"



2nd Corinthians 5:8

"We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."

WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT DEATH & DYING FOR THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER!

INTRODUCTION:

Without question one of the least popular things to talk about today is death and dying. In truth, the subject of death and dying is not normally a very pleasant topic of conversation.

Too often, we wait until a loved one in our family is actually ill to the point of death; or worse yet-we wait until a close relative or friend has actually died before we begin coping with death and dying.

The purpose of this booklet is to take a look at some of what the Bible says about death and dying; in an effort to help prepare us deal with this reality.

Not long ago, I thought I was on about to 'check out' of this life and go on to be with the **LORD!** Fortunately for me, the **LORD** said "not so!" And am I ever glad about it!

After coming home one Saturday afternoon from another long day (and long week for that matter); of church work-I began experiencing very rapid heart beats. To make a long story short, the beats became more frequent and more erratic. I thought I was having a heart attack.

Needless to say, this event changed my life. Not only have I begun paying better attention to my physical health- but I've begun paying **GODLY** attention to my **SPIRITUAL** health and that of my wife and children in particular. The event caused my wife and I to take a better look at the fragility of our physical lives and what the results of our death would mean on our family.

Let me quickly admit that our family is still in the process of doing all we need to do to prepare for the inevitable end of our physical lives. Nevertheless, it behooves each of us as **CHRISTIANS** to do all we can to prepare ourselves and our families for death and dying.

Finally, let me quickly say that there is no definitive work on this subject, the following are simply a series of Bible lessons taught at Canaan church during our adult Sunday School. I hope they are beneficial to the reader. May they serve as a primer to encourage the reader to study the Bible for yourself on this fascination subject.

Booklet notations:

- Sources of Information and Inspiration:
- ✓ **GOD** The **FATHER, SON** and **HOLY SPIRIT.**
 - ✓ The Bible, Prayer to **GOD** our **FATHER** on the subject.

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WHAT THE BIBLE HAS TO SAY ABOUT DEATH & DYING FOR THE CHRISTIAN BELIEVER!

INTRODUCTION: The purpose of the following series of Bible lessons is to discover, discern and discuss one of the most thought about and yet least spoken about subjects of all time ... Death!

The truth of the matter is that most people spend a great deal of time thinking about one of the three subject. Those subjects are: Sexuality, Money & Health. Our subject of 'What the Bible Has to say about Death & Dying for the Christian Believer' is connected to the last of those three subjects.

There are a myriad of reasons as to why people shy away from this subject.

Those reasons include:

- i.* We simply don't want to T_____ about it.
- ii.* We really don't want to D_____ with it.
- iii.* The subject makes us U_____.
- iv.* _____
- v.* _____
- vi.* _____

As we study the living, vibrant Word of God concerning this subject please commit to doing a few key things:

- ☞ PRAY! Ask God to speak to YOU concerning this matter.
- ☞ COMMIT! Commit to being present in Bible study to learn God's Word. contribute to the class in conversation & presence and share it with others.
- ☞ DO! Do something about what you learn. Do not just take the information, shelve it and leave it for another day. Actually commit to putting the Word of God into practice in YOUR life ... TODAY!

~continued-

While we will not be able to be exhaustive in our discussion, we will nevertheless attempt to provide a hearty, helpful, holy and healthy foundation from which you can grow and development as a child of God in this area of life.

Our goals for this series of lessons are manifold.

They include:

- ↪ *Answering often asked questions about death and dying.*
 - ↪ *Ease tension and pain for the Christian concerning death and dying.*
 - ↪ *Aid in the familial, practical and legal issues surrounding death & dying.*
 - ↪ *Remove the fear's & anxiety experienced by unbelievers concerning death & dying.*
-

Finally, we will be looking at a number of Bible stories and passages of Scripture in our brief study of this subject.

They include:

- *The life of Abraham & Sarah*
- *The life of the rich man and Lazarus*
- *The life of king Hezekiah & God*
- *Segments in the lives: Enoch, Noah, Elijah, & The Church of the Lord Jesus Christ*
- *& much more*

Let's begin our study now!

Coping With Death & Dying

(An Example From the lives of Abraham & Sarah)
Genesis 23:1-20

I. Physical death should be _____ !

*“Sarah lived one hundred and twenty-seven years;
these were the years of the life of Sarah.
So Sarah died”
-Genesis 23:1, 2a*

II. Personal pain in dealing with the death of a loved one should be

A _____ E _____ !

Question: *Where did death come from & how did it start?*

Answer:

*“Then to Adam He (God) said, ‘Because you have heeded the voice of your wife,
and have eaten from the tree of which I commanded you, saying,
‘You shall not eat of it’: Cursed is the ground for your sake;
in toil you shall eat of it All the days of your life.*

*Both thorns and thistles it shall bring for you,
And you shall eat the herb of the field.
In the sweat of your face you shall eat bread. Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;*

For dust you are, and to dust you shall return”
-Genesis 3:17-19

The writer of Hebrews records:

*“And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ...”
-Hebrews 9:27*

III. Personal weeping and mourning should not be over

E _____!

*“Then Abraham stood up from before his dead, and spoke to the sons of Heth, ...”
-Genesis 23:3*

IV. Prophetically the death of a Christian believer is a time of real

E _____!

~The Bible Says

*“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren,
concerning those who have fallen asleep,
lest you sorrow as others who have no hope, ...*

*For the Lord Himself will descent from heaven with a shout,
With the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God.*

And the dead in Christ will rise first.

*Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together
with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air.*

*And thus we shall always be with the Lord.
Therefore comfort one another with these words.”*

-I Thessalonians 4:13, 16, 17 & 18

**WOW! WHAT THE BIBLE DESCRIBES HERE IS
PRETTY EXCITING INDEED!**

COPING WITH DEATH & DYING PART 2
(Taking A Closer Look At First Thessalonians chapter four)
I Thessalonians 4:13-18

I. The Salvation of the Believer!

I. Thess. 1:1	=	<i>“To the church of the Thessalonians”</i>
I. Thess. 1:4	=	<i>“beloved <u>brethren</u>”</i>
I. Thess. 2:1	=	<i>“For you yourselves know, <u>brethren</u>”</i>
I. Thess 2:17	=	<i>“But we, <u>brethren ..</u>”</i>
I. Thess 3:2	=	<i>“and sent Timothy, our <u>brother ...</u>”</i>
I. Thess 4:1	=	<i>“Finally then, brethren, ...”</i>
I. Thess 4:13	=	<i>“But I do not want you to be ignorant, <u>brethren ...</u>”</i>

The writer of Thessalonians is clearly addressing his letter to Christian believers!

The first step in our dealing with death and dying is to make sure we are

C _____! Make sure we are **B** _____!

II. The Spiritual Growth of the Believer!

“I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, ...”
I. Thess. 4:13a

Whatever else the Christian faith is about, it’s about proper growth and development as children of God!

Consider the following statements:

-Quote: *“The only thing not growing is dead.”*

*“Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy,
and all evil speaking, as newborn babes,
desire the pure milk of the word that you may grow thereby.”*
I Peter 2:1, 2

*“You therefore, beloved, since you know this beforehand, beware let you also fall from
your own steadfastness, being led away with the error of the wicked; but grow in the
grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
To Him be the glory both now and forever. Amen.”*
2 Peter 3:17, 18

III. The Sorrow of the Believer!

“But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.”

-I. Thess 4:13

According to the Bible, while Christians do in fact mourn, weep and hurt as others do, we should not ‘sorrow’ as unbelievers.

WORD STUDY: Sorrow: The word sorrow in this passage is the word: “Lupeo” (lo-pay-o). Meaning: To distress, to be sad, to grieve, to be in heaviness, to be sorrowful.

While it is N _____ ful and N _____ to express our pain in the death of a loved one, it is truly a different kind of sorrow for the Christian who is dealing with the death of another Christian!

Consequently we don’t have to ‘sorrow’ as people without hope!
Hallelujah!

IV. The Security of the Believer!

“For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,
even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”

I. Thess 4:14

The Bible is clear! As Christians we are SECURE in Jesus!

-Consider the following verses of Scripture:

“My sheep hear My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me.
And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish;
neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

My Father, who has given them to Me is greater than all;
and no one is able to snatch them out of My Father’s hand.”

-John 10:27, 28, 29

~continued-

“Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and has anointed us is God,
who also has sealed us and given us the Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.”

II. Corinthians 1:22

“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every
spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,
...In Him (Jesus) we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins,
according to the riches of His grace ...

In Him (Jesus) also we have obtained an inheritance, ...

In Him (Jesus) you also trusted, after you heard the word of truth,
the gospel of your salvation; in whom also, having believed, you were sealed
with the Holy Spirit of promise.

Who is the guarantee of our inheritance until the redemption
Of the purchased possession, to the praise of His glory.”

-Ephesians 4:30

“saying, ‘Do not harm the earth, the sea,
or the trees till we have sealed the servants of our God on their foreheads.’”

-Revelation 7:3

Song Quote:

“The safest place in the whole wide world, is in the will of God!”

V. **The Sleep of the Believer!**

“... even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.”
I. Thessalonians 4:14

The first thing to note here is that the word ‘sleep’ in First Thessalonians chapter four and verse fourteen is not referring to the normal, physical rest, rejuvenation and refreshing most people enjoy after dinner and before breakfast.

When the Bible uses the word ‘sleep’ in this passage the reference is to death!

<p><u>WORD STUDY:</u> “Sleep”. In the Old Testament/Hebrew = Shakab (shaw- kab). Meaning: “To lie down for rest, lodge or decease.” In the New Testament/Greek = Koimesis (Koy-may-sis); from the word Koimao. Meaning: “To put to sleep, to decease, to be dead.”</p>

And, this is not the only time the Bible uses this word to describe physical death. Let’s consider other times the word sleep is used in speaking of physical death in Scripture.

~Speaking of some of the kings of Israel, the Bible says:

“So David slept with his fathers, and was buried in the City of David.”
-I. Kings 2:10

“Then Solomon slept with fathers, and was buried in the City of David his father.”
-I Kings 11:43a

“So Uzziah slept with his fathers, and they buried him with his fathers in the field of burial which belonged to the kings, ...”
-II. Chronicles 26:23a

~The Lord Jesus, in speaking about the death of Jairus' daughter says this:

“Why make this commotion and weep? The child is not dead, but sleeping.”

-Mark 5:39b

~The Lord Jesus, in speaking in His disciples about the death of Lazarus says this:

“Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up.”

-John 11:11

~In speaking about the result (s) of sin in the lives of believers, the Bible records:

“For this reason many are weak and sick among you, and many sleep.”

-I. Corinthians 11:30

~**Finally**, check this verse out! It speaks both to the issue of:

1. Confirming that the word ‘*sleep*’ in many instances in Scripture refers to death.
2. It confirms the reality of the rapture at the same time.

*“Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed-
in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.
For the trumpet will sound, and the dead (those sleeping)- will be raised incorruptible,
and we shall be changed.”*

-I. Corinthians 15:51, 52

WOW!

HERE’S THE REALITY OF DEATH FOR THE BELIEVER:

**WE’LL JUST BE GOING TO SLEEP!
AND THE LORD JESUS IS GOING TO WAKE US UP
...PERSONALLY!**

VI. The Sequence of Events Surrounding the Believer's Going to be With the Lord!

“For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.”
-I. Thessalonians 4:16

Note the following sequence (or order)- of events surrounding the home-going of believers the world over!

- i.* The Lord Jesus Himself will descend from heaven with a shout.
- ii.* The dead in Christ will rise first.
- iii.* We which are alive and remain will meet the Lord in the air.
- iv.* We shall always be with the Lord.

Discussion- What is meant in First Thessalonians 4:16, When the word ‘shout’ is used?

WORD STUDY: “Shout”; Keleuma, (kel-yoo-mah). Meaning: “A cry of incitement: literally a ‘shout’!”

NOTES: _____

Whatever else appears to be apparent in looking at the ‘shout’ in this text- it is the fact that the ‘shout’ described in verse 16 will incite the resurrection of the Christian believer!

Quote: “This is the shout of the resurrection.”
-Dr. Tim LaHaye, Co-author: Left Behind series

Extra Credit Question: Who is the ‘archangel’ spoken of in verse 16?

V. The Snatching Away of the Believer:

“Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord.”

-I. Thessalonians 4:17

In today’s Christian world we hear a lot of talk about the Rapture of the Church!

What does that word mean to you?

Note: _____

The word ‘*rapture*’ does not appear in the Bible. However, the definition of the word rapture does appear in Scripture. Specifically, we see the ‘*rapture of the church*’ in this passage of first Thessalonians 4:13-18; (*as well as other Scriptures including; I Cor. 15:51, 52, John 14:3; Rev 4:1, 2 etc.*).

WORD STUDY: “*Harpazo*” (har-pad-zo). Meaning: “*To seize, catch, pluck, pull or take by force.*”

Do you remember the famous R & B singer, Anita Baker singing the song: “*Caught Up In The Rapture of Love*”?

The spirit of the term ‘caught up’ in this passage can carry with it the same feeling as being overcome by love- as noted in the above reference.

The major difference here of course is that the lover in I. Thessalonians chapter four is GOD Himself! And we (*His church*); is literally ‘*caught up*’ in the rapture of His rescuing love. WOW!

☞ When we use the term Snatching Away in this section, we’re referring to the rapture of the Christian Believers.



WHAT DO THESE OLD TESTAMENT PASSAGES TEACH US ABOUT THE RAPTURE?

a. Let's look at Enoch: Genesis 5:20-24

*“So all the days of Jared were nine hundred and sixty-two years; and he died.
Enoch lived sixty-five years, and begot Methuselah.
After he begot Methuselah, Enoch walked with God three hundred years,
And had sons and daughters.
So all the days of Enoch were three hundred and sixty-five years.
And Enoch walker with God; and he was not,
For God took him.”*

-Genesis 5:20-24 (NKJV)

Read also Jude: 14, 15

In the midst of providing genealogical information, that is information on the human family tree, we come in Genesis chapter five to the man Enoch, and something strange is recorded.

What is it? _____

WORD STUDY: “Took”= Laqach (law-kakh). The word means: *“To carry away, to fetch, to seize, to take away or take up.”*

Let's look also at Hebrews 11:5:

*“By faith Enoch was translated that he should not see death;
and was not found because God had translated him:
for before his translation he had this testimony that he pleased God .”*
-Hebrews 11:5 (NKJV)

WORD STUDY: “Translated” = Metatithemi (met-at-ith'-ay-mee). The word means: *“To transport, exchange, change sides, carry over or remove.”*

Could it be that Enoch's translation is a type of 'rapture' of the church?

Notes: _____

Quote: *"The "translation" of Enoch prefigures the rapture of the believers. Enoch was taken away instantaneously and dramatically."*
-Commentary, Prophecy Study Bible, Dr. Tim LaHaye

=====

b. Let's look at the Noah: Read: Genesis 6:1 through 8:22

How does the Bible describe the circumstances or lifestyle of the people of Noah's day?

Read: Genesis 6:5

"Then the Lord saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intent of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."
-Genesis 6:5

Notes: _____

How does the Bible describe Noah?

Read: 6:9

"This is the genealogy of Noah, Noah was a just man, perfect in his generations. Noah walked with God."
-Genesis 6:9

(Bonus "?" there are only two men that the Bible speaks of as having 'walked with God'. Noah is one, do you remember who the other one is?)

Notes: _____

What does the Bible record happened to the people of Noah’s day and Noah himself? And, how should we look at that for our own world today?

Read: Genesis 6:13 & 18

“And God said to Noah, ‘The end of all flesh has come before Me, for the earth is filled with violence through them; and behold, I will destroy them with the earth. But I will establish My covenant with you; and you shall go into the ark- You, your sons, your wife, and your sons’ wives with you.’”
-Genesis 6:13 & 18 (NKJV)

Notes: _____

Could it be that Noah is a type of ‘Israel’ in the great tribulation period to come?

Notes: _____

Quote: “Noah is a type of Israel which will go through the wrath of the Tribulation yet be preserved.”

-Commentary, Prophecy Study Bible, Tim LaHaye, General Editor

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c. Let’s look at Elijah: 2nd Kings 2:1-12

“Then it happened, as they continued on and talked, that suddenly a chariot of fire appeared with horses of fire, and separated the two of them; and Elijah went up by a whirlwind into heaven.”

-2nd Kings 2:11

In speaking about the ‘translation’ of Enoch and the exit of Elijah, the following is noted~

Quote: *“This does not mean that he ceased to exist or that he died, as did others in the genealogy. Instead it means that he was taken alive into heaven by God, as was Elijah later.”*

Discussion-

VI. THE STRENGTH OF THE BELIEVER!

“Therefore comfort one another with these words.”
-I. Thessalonians 5:18

When it comes to the loss of a loved one, we all need extra special strength!

Unfortunately many people search for the strength they need when dealing with the death of a loved one in the wrong place (s). Many people also communicate their feelings in the wrong ways!

➤ The wrong place (s) to look for Spiritual strength include:

- | | | | |
|------|---------|-----|----------------------------|
| i. | Alcohol | ii. | Drugs |
| iii. | Sex | iv. | New un-Godly relationships |
| v. | | vi. | |
| vii. | | | |

➤ The wrong ways to communicate our need for frustration for not having the Spiritual strength we need include:

- | | | | |
|------|------------------|-----|---------|
| i. | Anger | ii. | Silence |
| iii. | Total withdrawal | iv. | Denial |
| v. | | vi. | |
| vii. | | | |

FACT:

The Christians in Thessalonica were dealing with some serious difficulties.

-They were facing two great foes:

1. Persecution of the church.
2. The physical death of fellow Christians.

Note: Many of the deaths they experienced were martyr's deaths by other believers!

COPING WITH DEATH AND DYING PART 3

Life After Death

Luke 16:19-31

INTRODUCTION: Without question, one of the hottest topics today is that of the ‘after life.’ There are more books, television special’s, radio shows, websites etc., giving place to this subject than ever before!

Interestingly enough, most people are looking in the wrong place for the right answer’s regarding what happens to us after we die. The right place to look is the Bible ... period!

If (as CHRISTians); we really believe that JESUS CHRIST is who He claimed to be, and if we believe the Bible to be the ‘inspired Word of GOD’; than we should have no problem in looking to the Holy Scriptures for answers to our questions concerning life after death.

As we begin this section of study, let’s keep several things in mind. Here they are:

According to the Scriptures:

1. Everyone has eternal life!
2. The righteous have eternal life in favor- with **GOD!**
3. The unrighteous have eternal life without **GOD!**
4. Where we spend eternity has nothing to do with who we are, but it does have everything to do with WHO’S we are!

Having established that, let’s establish several truths concerning our Bible Scripture for this morning.

1. The story of the Rich man and Lazarus is a real story!

2. The story of the Rich man and Lazarus involved real people!

What are some of the unique features about this passage of Scripture that mark it as being a true story of real people, instead of a parable?

a.

b.

c.

d.

Let's profile the two people in this story.

1. The Rich man:

- i.* He is called a 'certain rich man'.
 - Status has nothing to do with our avoiding heaven or hell.
 - Wealth has nothing to do with our avoiding heaven or hell
 - Religious position has nothing to do with our avoiding heaven or hell.
 - Social belief's and practices has nothing to do with our avoiding heaven or hell.

2. Lazarus:

- Being a beggar does not make us automatic candidates for heaven over hell.
- Being physically impaired does not guarantee our going to heaven or hell.
- Being spiritually 'unclean' by man's standard does not make us a candidate for hell or heaven.

BOTH MEN DIED!

What happened to the Rich man & Lazarus after death?

A. The Rich man lifted up his eyes in hell!

“And being in torments in Hades, he lifted his eyes ...”
-Luke 16:23a

WORD STUDY: Hell “Hades” (hah'-dace). Meaning: “The place, or state of departed souls:- grave, hell.”

This word is used in Matt. 11:23; 16:18; Luke 10:15; 16:23; Acts 2:27, 31.
At this point it's also beneficial to note the use of the word Gehenna in Scripture.

WORD STUDY: Gehenna. “Geenna”, (gheh-en-nah). Referring to: “The valley of the son of Hinnon; Gehenna (or Ge-Hinnom), a valley of Jerus. Used figuratively as a name for the place of everlasting punishment.”

Quote: “The word hell in Mark 9:43, 45 translates the word Gehenna, which is an allusion to the “Valley of the son of Hinnom” (Josh. 18:16). In this valley, the Israelites had gone so far as to offer their children as burnt sacrifices to Molech. Josiah defiled this site in order to prove the repetition of such abominations (see 2 Kin. 23:10), and then a fire was kept burning there consume the carrion and refuse that were collected around Jerusalem. The final punishment of the wicked is described in the Old Testament by allusions to this valley (Is. 66:24). By using the word gehenna, Jesus was recalling the same place and that kind of punishment for sin.”

-Source: Commentary, NKJV Earl D. Radmacher, ThD., general editor

The word Gehenna is used in such verses as: Matt. 5:30; 10:28; 18:9; 23:15, 33. Mark 9:43, 45, 47.

B. Lazarus was carried by the angels to ‘Abraham’s bosom’.

“So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom.”

-Luke 16:22

Note the reference to A _____ ‘s in the text.

Do we often see angels mentioned in reference to the death of saints in the Scripture?

- Yes
- No

Give some references: _____

Abraham's bosom represents a place of comfort for the believer!

Where is heaven?

Heaven is wherever **G** _____ is! Heaven is where GOD has His

W _____!

Heaven is where **GOD'S W** _____ is done!

WORD STUDY: Heaven. "Ouranos". (Oo-ran-os). Meaning: "Elevation, heaven (as the abode of God); by impl. Happiness, power, eternity."

Note the following observations about life after death- from the story of the Rich man and Lazarus

RICH MAN

Was immediately taken to his eternal resting place
Was immediately aware of his eternal resting place
Had eyes to see & ears to hear
Was tormented in 'this flame.'
Separated from Abraham's bosom by a great gulf

LAZARUS

Was immediately taken to his eternal resting place
Was immediately aware of his eternal resting place
Had ability to communicate & be communicated to
Enjoyed the comfort of 'Abraham's bosom'
Separated from Hades by a great gulf

SOME QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS:

1. When the CHRISTians is resurrected, what will our resurrection bodies look like?

Answer: I don't know. But the Bible does say that we shall be 'like Him!'

"Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure."

1st John 3:2

2. Will we be recognizable after we're resurrected?

Answer: Yes! Consider the following examples~

- i. The Rich man recognized Abraham after his death.
Ref.: Luke 16:19-31
- ii. Moses & Elijah were recognized by the disciples on the Mount of Transfiguration. (*very possibly part of Mt. Hermon*).
Ref. *Matthew 17:1-13; Mark 9:1-13; Luke 9:27-36.*
- iii. **JESUS** was recognized on a variety of occasions, including: by His disciples, and over 500 people at one time.
Ref. *Matthew 28:1-10; Mark 16:9-11,12, 13; Luke 24:13-35, 26-53.*
John 20:11-18, 19-29; John 21:1-14; I. Cor. 15:3-6.

From the above verses of Scripture, recognize these other notable truths.

We will have bodies!

We will have the capacity to eat food, and will in fact eat.

We will be able to communicate with one another.

We _____

We _____

3. What happened to those who died before JESUS CHRIST came?

First: It is clear from Scripture, that those who died went to Hades, the place of the dead, also referred to by king David (*in the Hebrew tongue*); as Sheol. See Psalm 16:10; 116:3. *Other references in Job 17:16; Isaiah 38:18; Jonah 2:2.*

Second: When **JESUS** died on the cross and rose again for our sins, He restored our relationship with **GOD** the Father through His perfect sacrifice; and thus rescued us from death, hell and the grave.

What does this mean in light of the question? It means that those who died in **CHRIST** prior to **JESUS'** life, death, burial and resurrection; went to Hades when they died and were then taken from Hades at the resurrection of **JESUS** to be 'with the **LORD**.'

*"We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body
and to be present with the Lord."*

-II Corinthians 5:8

4. What are believers, who have died in **CHRIST** doing now?

Answer: Believers who have died in **CHRIST** are in the very presence of the **LORD JESUS** Himself

Remember that apostle Paul's writing to the church of Thessalonica:

“So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord.”

-II Corinthians 5:6

“We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”

-II Corinthians 5:8

5. When will the believer's be with **GOD** forever?

Answer: The Bible has much to say about the believers merger or 'Marriage' to our living Lord and sovereign Savior, ... **JESUS CHRIST!**

Consider these words of the apostle John while writing of the 'Marriage Supper of the Lamb' in the book of Revelation.:

“After these things I heard a loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, saying, ‘Alleluia! Salvation and glory and honor and power belong to the Lord our God! For true and righteous are His judgments, because He has judged the great harlot who corrupted the earth with her fornication; and He has avenged on her the blood of His servants shed by her,’
Again they said ‘Alleluia! Her smoke rises up forever and ever! ...

-Revelation 19:1-3

“And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, as the sound of many waters and as the sound of might thunderings, saying, “Alleluia! For the Lord God Omnipotent reigns! Let us be glad and rejoice and give Him glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His wife has made herself ready.’

And to her it was granted to be arrayed in fine linen, clean and bright, for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints. Then he said to me, ‘Write:

‘Blessed are those who are called to the marriage supper of the Lamb.’”

-Revelation 19:6-9a

Quote: “The ‘marriage of the Lamb’ (Rev. 19:7) is a phrase that beautifully describes the final and complete union of Jesus Christ and true believers. It communicates an intimacy of relationship between Christ and believers that in this life has never experience and one that will never be compromised or broken. From the time of the ‘marriage’ onward, the bride and Christ are inseparable.

-Paul Benware, Th.M., Thd.D.,
Professor of Theology and Bible, Philadelphia College of Bible Langhorne, PA.

NOTES: _____

COPING WITH DEATH & DYING PART 4

Setting Your House In Order ~ Isaiah 38:1-5

LIVE EVERY SECOND OF YOUR LIFE **FOR THE LORD!**

In a final note as we prepare to end this series of lessons, let's note the fascinating story of the life of Hezekiah!

The Bible records the wonderful story of the life of Hezekiah in Isaiah 38:1-20. The Bible tells us that the prophet Isaiah came to Hezekiah and told him this:

"Thus says the Lord: Set your house in order, for you shall die and not live."

-Isaiah 38:1a

What relevant message Isaiah gives to Hezekiah! A message that is pertinent for all of us today ...

"Set Your House In Order!"

Application: Every CHRISTian should do their best to see to the care and welfare of their family and loved ones both here and in the here-after.

By this I mean that we should leave a material, but most importantly a SPIRITual inheritance to our children and our children's children.

This also means that we should do our best to take care of 'final arrangements' for our own 'home-going celebration' as best we can prior to our physical death. In many instances this can do aid our loved ones from having to make difficult decisions after our death.

Having matters such as 'living wills & trusts can also aide in minimizing potential problems among our family and friends regarding any material possessions we may leave behind.

Note the final section of this hand-out for more information.

In the second part of Isaiah's statement to Hezekiah, we note that the prophet of GOD says:

"... for you shall die and not live."

-Isaiah 38:1c

It's the truth for all of us, **EVERYONE** of shall one day experience physical death.!

Finally, the fascinating part of this true story is that Hezekiah prays to GOD and asks for GOD to extend his life.

“Then Hezekiah turned his face toward the wall, and prayed unto the Lord, and said, ‘Remember now, O Lord, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight. And Hezekiah wept bitterly.’”

-Isaiah 38:1, 2

WOW! The power of sincere and fervent prayer is awesome.

WOW to the infinite power! The extent of our **GOD’S** love, mercy and grace is Immeasurable! **GOD** grants Hezekiah’s wish.

“And the word of the lord came to Isaiah, saying, ‘God and tell Hezekiah, ‘Thus says the Lord, the God of David your father: ‘I have heard your prayer, I have seen your tears; surely I will add to your days fifteen years.’”

-Isaiah 38:4, 5

NOTE: _____

HOLY LIFE INSURANCE

1. PERSONAL SPIRITUAL PREPARATION:

- 🔔 Make a personal decision to accept **JESUS CHRIST** as Savior and Lord!
- ↔ Purchase: “*COPING WITH DEATH & DYING*” *SERMON SERIES*:
(This will prove to be a blessing to both you and your loved ones!)

2. LIVING WILL & TRUST:

- 🔔 *Complete a living will & trust with a reputable attorney or appropriate service. Make at least two copies of the trust, keeping one in a secure location such as a safety deposit box. Keeping the second one safe with a close friend or relative of your choosing. And keeping the last one on hand in your home safe or designated place for personal papers.*
- ↔ *Review and update your living will & trust as needed.*

3. CHOOSE A FUNERAL SERVICE TO HANDLE YOUR HOME-GOING ARRANGEMENTS:

Make your decision based on:

- ↔ *Personal experience (s)*
- ↔ *References*
- ↔ *Quality*
- ↔ *Reputation*
- ↔ *Economics*

*Be sure to meet with the funeral service director or designated staff person prior to making your final decision.

4. DECIDE WITH YOUR LOVED ONE(S)/FAMILY AND FUNERAL SERVICE PROFESSIONAL THE FOLLOWING:

What city and state you wish to be buried in.

What method of ‘final arrangement’ you’re choosing.

Examples:

- Cremation?
- Burial in the ground?
- Burial next to a loved one such as a spouse etc.?
- Burial on top or beneath a loved one such as a spouse etc.?
- Being placed in a mosoleum?
- Other ...?

5. MAKE ARRANGEMENTS TO PRE-PAY FOR ALL ARRANGEMENTS IF AT ALL POSSIBLE:!

Some things to be sure to consider:

- ~ *Cost of transferring your remains to another state if you choose burial somewhere other than your place of death.*
- ~ *Cost of casket, cremation box, urn, mosoleum etc.*
- ~ *Cost of funeral service personnel, including all costs for:
Opening of casket, closing of casket, lowering of casket at grave site,
Use of funeral service personnel at your home-going service, motorcade escort from the church to the mortuary etc.*

6. OTHER PERSONAL CONSIDERATIONS THAT MAY GREATLY BENEFIT YOUR LOVED ONES:

- ↵ Choose the clothes you want to be buried in.
- ↵ Choose how you'd like your hair or make-up done, and if necessary who you'd like to do it.
- ↵ Choose the jewelry you want to wear and be buried with (if any).
- ↵ Make a list of minister's you'd like to conduct the service on your behalf.

- Include:*
- a. Who you'd like to preach the eulogy.
 - b. Who you'd like conduct the service large.
 - c. Who you'd like to print the programs.
 - d. Who you'd like to read the resolutions or other special comments.
 - e. Who you'd like to serve all pall bearers or honorary pall bearer.

7. OTHER THINGS YOU MAY WISH TO DO:

Once you've completed the program for your '*home-going service*' send a copy to everyone listed as a participant on the program.

ANSWER SHEET

Page 1:

- i.* Talk
- ii.* Discuss
- iii.* Uncomfortable

Page 3:

- i.* Expected
- ii.* Adequately Expressed

Page 4:

- III. Extended
- IV. Excitement

Page 5:

- I. Christian! Believers!

Page 6:

Needful and Necessary

Page 18:

Angels

Page 19:

God

Way

Will