

Lesson 16 – What Is Death?

Key Verse: Philippians 1:21

“For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.”

Overview

Have you ever been to the funeral of a non-Christian? What happened when that person died? Of course, their body began to decay, but what happened to their spirit? How about for a Christian? When they died their body began to decay as well, but what happened to their spirit? While the flesh is buried in the ground to return to the dust, the spirit of mankind is eternal and will live forever. The spirit of man will also be united again with a resurrected body in the future. But is this resurrection only for believers? In this lesson, we will study what the Bible says about death and eternity for both for the unbeliever and for the believer.

Death

1. Genesis 1:31. What did God declare about His creation? _____
2. Genesis 2:16–17. What did God promise Adam if he ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil?

3. Genesis 3:4. What was Satan’s lie to Eve? _____
4. Genesis 3:21. How did God make garments of skin? _____
5. Genesis 4:5–8. Why did Cain kill Abel? _____
6. Romans 5:12. How did death enter the world? _____
7. Romans 6:23. What are the wages for our sin? _____

When Unbelievers Die

1. Hebrews 9:27. According to this verse, what happens after death? _____
2. Luke 16:24–26. What was the state of the rich man? _____
3. Matthew 25:41–46. What will happen to the “goats”? _____

4. John 5:28–29. What will happen to “those who committed the evil deeds”? _____

5. Revelation 20:12. What will happen to the unbelievers who are raised? _____

6. Romans 9:2. What was Paul’s response when thinking about the Jews rejecting Christ? _____

“After a non-Christian has died, it would be wrong to give any indication to others that we think the person has gone to heaven since this would diminish the sense of urgency for those still alive to trust in Christ.”

—Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*, pg. 110

When Believers Die

1. Hebrews 2:14–15. What does Christ free believers from? _____
2. Acts 20:37–38. How did the Ephesian elders respond knowing they would not see Paul again? _____

3. 2 Corinthians 5:8. Where did Paul say he would be when he was “absent from the body”? _____

4. Philippians 1:23. Why did Paul desire to depart? _____
5. 1 Thessalonians 4:13. Why is grieving over a believer different from grieving the loss of an unbeliever? _____

The Future of Believers after Death

1. Romans 8:17. What is the final outcome of believers? _____
2. Romans 8:23. What do believers eagerly await? _____
3. 1 Thessalonians 4:15–17. What is the next major event for the church? _____
4. 1 Corinthians 15:51–52. How will believers be raised? _____
5. 1 Corinthians 15:54–57. What will no longer have power over believers? _____

6. Revelation 21:3–4. What will no longer exist in the New Jerusalem? _____
7. Revelation 22:14. What will believers be able to eat from? _____

“Those who are raised with Christ will forever live in bodies that have all the excellent qualities God created us to have. These bodies will forever be the living proof of the wisdom of God in creation—a creation He called “very good.”
—Wayne Grudem, *Christian Beliefs*, pg. 112

Application

1. Do you have a fear of dying? How is that fear overcome?
2. How should the truth about death and eternal judgment affect your evangelism?
3. How does a future resurrection give you hope?