

THE FINALITY OF DEATH

DEFEATING DEATH'S DECEPTION

"O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?"

~ 1 Corinthians 15:55

1. Death's Deception

- a. Dead ~*def.* Without life, force, usefulness, movement, detached from soul/spirit.
- b. Since birth, all men are appointed to die (not by God's choice) - Rom 5:12, Heb 9:27
- c. Death is strong, has power, reigned for a long time - Song 8:6, Heb 2:14, Rom 5:14
- d. Men see death as final: "end of life", "no more", "last breath", "final moments" Ecc 9:4
- e. It is a deception that death is where all hope dies, a veil that cannot be pierced.

2. Death as Final

- a. Deadline ~*def.* a line that cannot be crossed. Like death?
- b. Job trusted he would see God after he became worm food - Job 19:25-27
- c. Abraham had faith that God was able to raise from the dead - Heb 11:19
- d. When Christ rose from the dead, to continue past death became reality - 1Cor 15:13,18
- e. Men cannot reach past death, but resurrection means death is not final - John 11:25-26
- f. The 'finality' of death applies to our mortal flesh, not us. We are not just our bodies.
- g. Not even our bodies have seen their last - Luke 24:37-43, Rom 8:11, 1 Cor 15:44

3. Death as the End of Life

- a. We do not see them live (end of life before us), but all live unto God - Luke 20:37-38
- b. The breath is gone from their lungs, but they yet breathe elsewhere (ex. Babies)
- c. God breathed life into man (Gen 2:7), Jesus 'inspired' his disciples - John 20:22
- d. Life continues after death: fulness of joy, pleasures for ever - Psa 16:9-11
- e. "Our conversation is in heaven" - life goes on for the dead in Christ - Phi 3:20-21
- f. When we die in the Lord, we are "swallowed up of life" - 2 Cor 5:4

4. Death as Inaction

- a. We put the dead in cemeteries, because they don't move.
- b. However, the dead in Christ have moved more than us - 1 Thess 4:13-16
- c. Saints are doing things in a different place while we dispose of their bodies.
- d. Death is not the end of service; it is a promotion to greater service. Rom 5:18-19
- e. They are with the saints, in church, communion, praising, loving, praying. Rev 20:4,
- f. The dead in hell remember, reason, hear, how much more in heaven - Luke 16:27
- g. They have been clothed, dwell with, accepted by, gain - 2 Cor 5:1-8, Phi 1:21
- h. Many of us have not moved in the course of this world for a while - Gal 6:14
- i. Paul is departing, finishing his course, but there is more to do - 2 Tim 4:6-8
- j. They prepare for the coming judgment and kingdom in glory - 2 Tim 4:1

5. Death as Forever

- a. We are to look to the future in hope that outshines death - Titus 2:13
- b. We shall appear with him in glory - Col 3:1-4
- c. Death reigned here, it does not reign forever, not there - Rom 5:21,6:23, 1Co 15:26

6. Death as Certain

- a. Death and taxes only certain in this world... (but gospel, salvation, God? Rev 21:4-5)
- b. Our gospel is that death is abolished, and the gospel brings immortality - 2 Tim 1:8-10
- c. Every saved saint who dies is another victory for Jesus who conquered death to save.
- d. In one way death is final, there is no going back afterward ...
 - i. ... to sin, mortality, corruption, death, destruction. 1 Cor 15:54-58