

# No Fear

*A Christian Perspective on Death*

- ## The Crucial Issues in Eschatology
- The eternal soul of every human being.
  - The temporary separation at death of the material and immaterial parts of man.
  - The present existence of a literal heaven and hell.
  - The immediate passing of the soul at death into either heaven or hell.
  - The consciousness of all the dead.
  - The literal, bodily return of Jesus Christ.
  - The physical resurrection of every human being.
  - The future judgment of every human being.
  - The eternal, conscious existence of every human being either in the lake of fire or the new heavens and the new earth.



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- ## A Definition of Death
- A basic definition: "the cessation of the life of the body; a separation of the immaterial soul of man from his physical body."
  - James 2:26 - as the body without *the* spirit is dead, so also faith without works is dead.

- ## The Major Biblical Illustrations of Death
- Rest or sleep
    - John 11:11 – He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I go, so that I may awaken him out of sleep."
    - 1 Th. 4:13 – we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.

## The Major Biblical Illustrations of Death

- A tent destroyed or broken down
  - 2 Cor. 5:1 – we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.
  - 2 Pet. 1:14 – the laying aside of my *earthly* dwelling is imminent, as also our Lord Jesus Christ has made clear to me.

## The Major Biblical Illustrations of Death

- Withering & fading of wild flowers
  - Ps. 103:15-16 – As for man, his days are like grass; As a flower of the field, so he flourishes. 16 When the wind has passed over it, it is no more, And its place acknowledges it no longer.
  - Cf. Job 14:2; 1 Pet. 1:21

## The Major Biblical Illustrations of Death

- A shadow
  - Job 8:9 – "For we are *only* of yesterday and know nothing, Because our days on earth are as a shadow.
  - Job 14:2 – "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.
  - Ps. 144:4 – Man is like a mere breath; His days are like a passing shadow.
- Phil. 1:23

## The Demographics of Death

- It's source
  - Gen. 3:19 – "By the sweat of your face You will eat bread, Till you return to the ground, Because from it you were taken; For you are dust, And to dust you shall return."
  - Deut. 32:39 – "See now that I, I am He, and there is no god besides Me; it is I who put to death and give life. I have wounded and it is I who heal, and there is no one who can deliver from My hand.

## The Demographics of Death

- It's cause
  - Gen. 2:17 – from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die."
  - Rom. 5:12 – Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.
  - Rom. 6:23 – the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.
  - 1 Cor. 15:56 – The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.

## The Demographics of Death

- It's scope
  - Job 14:1-2 – "Man, who is born of woman, is short-lived and full of turmoil. 2 "Like a flower he comes forth and withers. He also flees like a shadow and does not remain.
  - Eccl. 8:8 – No man has authority to restrain the wind with the wind, or authority over the day of death.
  - Heb. 9:27 – it is appointed for men to die once and after this *comes* judgment.
  - 1 Pet. 1:24 – "ALL FLESH IS LIKE GRASS, AND ALL ITS GLORY LIKE THE FLOWER OF GRASS. THE GRASS WITHERS, AND THE FLOWER FALLS OFF.
  - The only exceptions:
    - 1) Enoch (Gen. 5:24; Heb. 11:5)
    - 2) Elijah (2 Kings 2:11)
    - 3) Those Christians living at the coming of Christ (1 Th. 4:17)

## Two Practical Applications

- Treat the people you love as if their death were imminent.
- Don't be surprised by the approaching death of others or of your own.

## Two Biblical Applications

- Live constantly under an awareness of your mortality.
  - Cf. Mark 10:45 – the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many.\*
  - [Ps. 39:3-6](#)
  - [Ps. 90:1-12](#)
- Live on purpose—don't waste your life.
  - Rom. 14:7-8 – For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself; for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.
  - Phil. 1:20 – according to my earnest expectation and hope, that I will not be put to shame in anything, but *that* with all boldness, Christ will even now, as always, be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.