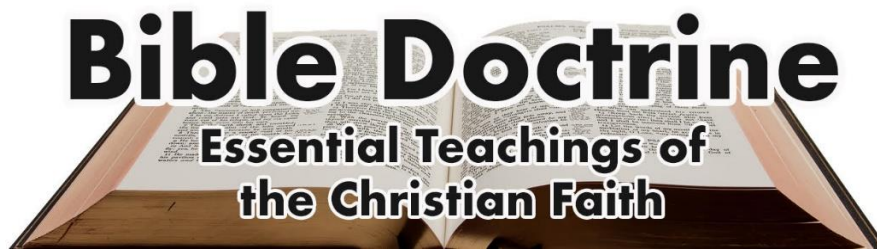


Bible Doctrine

Essential Teachings of the Christian Faith



Lesson 40: Death and the Intermediate State

Chapter 25

October 8, 2023

I. The different ways Scripture speaks of “death.”

A. Physical death.

Job 30:23 - *For I know that You will bring me to death,
And to the house appointed for all living.*

Psalms 49:10 - *For he sees wise men die;
Likewise the fool and the senseless person perish,
And leave their wealth to others.*

B. Spiritual death.

Genesis 2:17 - *but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.*

Romans 6:23 - *For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.*

II. What happens when people die.

A. The souls of believers go immediately into God’s presence.

2 Corinthians 5:8 - *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

Luke 23:43 - *And Jesus said to him, “Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise.”*

B. The souls of unbelievers go immediately to eternal punishment.

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

Luke 16:24-26 - *“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’”²⁵ But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.’²⁶ And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’*

C. This negates purgatory, “soul sleep,” and the need to pray for the dead.

III. How believers should think about death.

A. Our own death.

2 Corinthians 5:8 - *We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.*

Philippians 1:21-23 - *For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.²² But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell.²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.*

Revelation 14:13 - *Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'"*

B. The death of Christian friends and relatives.

1. Feelings of sorrow.

Acts 8:2 - *And devout men carried Stephen to his burial, and made great lamentation over him.*

John 11:33-36 - *Therefore, when Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who came with her weeping, He groaned in the spirit and was troubled. ³⁴ And He said, "Where have you laid him?"*

They said to Him, "Lord, come and see."

³⁵ *Jesus wept. ³⁶ Then the Jews said, "See how He loved him!"*

2. Feelings of hope and joy.

Psalms 116:15 - *Precious in the sight of the Lord*

is the death of His saints.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14 - *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. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.*

C. The death of unbelievers.

Romans 9:1-3 - *I tell the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Spirit, ² that I have great sorrow and continual grief in my heart. ³ For I could wish that I myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my countrymen according to the flesh,*

D. God's purposes for death.

1. Death is the final outcome of living in a fallen world.

1 Corinthians 15:26 - *The last enemy that will be destroyed is death.*

1 Corinthians 15:54-55 - *So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."*

⁵⁵ *"O Death, where is your sting?*

O Hades, where is your victory?"

2. Death is not a punishment for Christians.

Romans 8:1 - *There is therefore now no condemnation to those who are in Christ Jesus, who do not walk according to the flesh, but according to the Spirit.*

3. God uses experiences of death to complete believers' sanctification.

Romans 8:28 - *And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.*

Philippians 1:20 - *according to my earnest expectation and hope that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but with all boldness, as always, so now also Christ will be magnified in my body, whether by life or by death.*