



dba  
New  
Covenant  
Church

P.O. Box 142115  
Austin, Texas 78714-2115  
(512) 303-0431  
(512) 321-7308  
Pastor Eddie E. Willis, Sr.

Sunday School Lesson

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## The Good Death

**Physical death:** Ecclesiastes 12: 6 – 7 Or ever the silver cord be loosed...<sup>7</sup> Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it. Psalm 90: 10 states: The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away.

**Dead in our sins and trespasses** -Sin is death- all those who remain in their sins are dead. Ephesians 2: 1 reads: And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins. Sin is a type of death. Romans 7: 9 the Bible says – For I was alive without the law once: but when the commandment came, sin revived, and I died. Not physically dead but alienated from the life of God. (Genesis 3: 17)

**Dead to our sins:** Romans 6: 1 – 2 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? <sup>2</sup>God forbid. How shall we that are dead to sin, live any longer therein? (V. 5) For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: (V. 8) Now if we be dead with Christ, we believe that we shall also live with him: (V. 10) For in that he died, he died unto sin once: but in that he liveth, he liveth unto God. The apostle Paul is quoted saying in Galatians 2: 20 – I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me. Born Again!

**Second Death:** Revelation 20: 6 states: Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power. Revelation 20: 14 states: And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Scripture Lesson: Hebrews 9: 27 – 28

## **AND AS IT IS APPOINTED UNTO MEN ONCE TO DIE, BUT AFTER THIS THE JUDGMENT: (Hebrews 9: 27) KJV**

**First Point: APPOINTED.** Death is unavoidable, inevitable; it is an appointment. We have birth control... but we don't have death control. Genesis 2: 16 -17 reads: And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: <sup>17</sup>But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die.

What death did they die? Alienated from the life of God. Ephesians 4: 18 reads: Having the understanding darkened, being alienated from the life of God through the ignorance that is in them, because of the blindness of their heart. (cf. II Corinthians 4: 3 - 4 God of this world blinded the minds)

First Point again as it is an Appointment: Genesis 3: 19 reads: In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return. Ecclesiastes 3: 20 states: All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

**Second Point: UNTO MEN:** ALL mankind, men, women, boys and girls. There are no exceptions. If we were to escape death only to face the judgment it would still be like jumping out of the frying pan into the fire. Romans 5: 12 reads: Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned. Romans 3: 23 states: For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God. (cf. Psalm 58: 3 and 51: 3)

**Third Point: ONCE TO DIE.** No second chances at life or death. It's one and done. This also contradicts the theory of re-incarnation where we live successive lives. This leads some people to believe that since you only die once that they should eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die; they should "live it up" and "let their hair down" and live as recklessly as they can. But this is contrary to what the writer of the Book of Hebrews is saying. I Peter 2: 11 explains: Dearly beloved, I beseech you as strangers and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts, which war against the soul. James 4: 13 – 14 reads: Go to now, ye that say, To day or to morrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: <sup>14</sup>Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a Vapour that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away. And in the Book of Ephesians 5: 14 -16, I quote; Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the

dead, and Christ shall give thee light. <sup>15</sup> See then that ye walk circumspectly, not as fools, but as wise, <sup>16</sup> Redeeming the time, because the says are evil.

**Fourth Point: AFTER THIS:** Death is not the end as implied and, is not intended to be fatalistic, dark, despairing or depressing. Many say death is permanent, however in one sense death is not permanent at all. There is another life to be lived after this life. Christians speak of death as a temporary state. In St. John 11: 11, The Bible says: These things said he: and after that he saith unto them, Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep. And in I Thessalonians 4: 13 – But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning them which are asleep, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope. To those who seek to follow Christ there lies beyond death an inheritance imperishable. I Peter 1: 3 – 4 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead. <sup>4</sup>To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you.

I Corinthians 15: 50 – 57 Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. <sup>51</sup>Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, <sup>52</sup>in a moment in the twinkling of eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. <sup>53</sup>For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup>So when this corruptible *shall have* put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. <sup>55</sup>O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory? <sup>56</sup>The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup>But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Philippians 3: 20 – 21 reads: For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: <sup>21</sup>Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

**Fifth Point: THE JUDGMENT: DEATH IS OUR DESTINY DOOR TO ETERNAL LIFE.** For we must all appear before the Judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad. (II Corinthians 5: 10) The Bible says: St. John 5: 24 – 25; 28 – 29 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath

everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life. <sup>25</sup>Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the dead shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. <sup>28</sup>Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, <sup>29</sup>And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

The Great White Throne Judgment is found in Revelation 20: 11 – 15. And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. <sup>12</sup>And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works. <sup>13</sup>And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. <sup>14</sup>And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. <sup>15</sup>And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

How do I get into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ? Through faith and Baptism! Galatians 3: 26 – 29 reads: For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus. <sup>27</sup>For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ. <sup>28</sup>There is neither Jew nor Greek, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor female: for ye are all one in Christ Jesus. <sup>29</sup>And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

The Bible says in Romans 8: 1 – 2 There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. <sup>2</sup>For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.

Those who refuse or neglect will be counted as ungodly and unprepared. Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people. St. Matthew 25: 31 – 46, St. John 5: 28 – 29, I Corinthians 6: 9 – 11, Romans 10: 8 – 15