

9-30-18 Morning Message UNDERSTANDING DEATH

I Corinthians 15:21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

I Corinthians 15:23 But every man in his own order: Christ the firstfruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming.

I Corinthians 15:24 Then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power.

I Corinthians 15:25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet.

I Corinthians 15:26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death.

What is one of the most important truths that the Bible can explain to mortal men that the world has no answer for? It is our part of our faith and hope. It is what sets true Christianity apart from any other faith or religion.

What sets us apart is the biblical teaching on Life and Death.. and how we obtain eternal life and escape eternal death. Really, to understand this doctrine we need to understand what death is.

What exactly is death? I picked up a pamphlet at a funeral home one time that tried to explain it and it just white washed the issue and gave no Scripture at all. We should not be ignorant of what the Bible says about death.

Here is what the world says death is:

Webster gives this definition of death:

The irreversible cessation of all vital functions especially as indicated by permanent stoppage of the heart, respiration, and brain activity : the end of life

The common law standard for determining death is the cessation of all vital functions, traditionally demonstrated by "an absence of spontaneous respiratory and cardiac functions.

This definition is too shallow. This morning we are going to study the biblical teaching of death, what it is all about, and what the Bible says about death and life.

Consider, is this not the most important doctrine we teach? The Bible alone gives the answers to the age old questions of life and death, why we are here and what happens to us after we die.

BIBLICAL TEACHING ON DEATH.

I. DEATH IS FIRST MENTIONED IN GENESIS CHAPTER TWO AND IT CAME INTO THE WORLD BECAUSE OF ADAM'S SIN.

1. DEATH CAME BECAUSE OF ADAM'S DISOBEDIENCE TO GOD.

Genesis 2:15 And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it.

Genesis 2:16 And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat:

Genesis 2:17 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.

If you want to understand what death is, we should look to see how man got his life and what life is.

Death would have to be the opposite of life.
Look and see how Adam got his life.

2. REVERSE HOW ADAM GOT HIS LIFE AND YOU HAVE DEATH.

Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

No doubt Adam could observe how leaves died.
There had to be some form of things dying in the garden for Adam to understand death.

When Adam returned to the ground and the breath of life left him, than death would come.

James 2:26 ... the body without the spirit is dead,

When the spirit leaves the Body our body dies.

There is a disconnection between the two, the Spirit and the Body.

This connection can be broken in a violent way.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Through a sever trauma, the body, like a pitcher, can be broken.
Or through sickness, the silver cord is loosed.

Then at that point the Spirit, which came into a man through the breath of God, will return to the Lord.

When the Spirit of a man leaves him, the body becomes a lifeless shell and ceases to function..
It is the spirit that empowers the body!

II. SINCE MAN IS A THREE PART BEING THERE ARE THREE DEATHS HE CAN EXPERIENCE.

Man is Body, Soul, and Spirit.

1. The first death occurred in the garden of Eden.

God said, the day you eat of the fruit ye shall surely die.

Every human being has experienced this death already.

We all are born into this world sinners and separated from God.

ADAM AND EVE RAN FROM GOD, AND MEN ARE STILL RUNNING.

Genesis 3:7 And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons.

Genesis 3:8 And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden.

Genesis 3:9 And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, Where art thou?

Genesis 3:10 And he said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked; and I hid myself.

Each of us by nature are running from God.

Ephesians 2:1 And you hath he quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;

Ephesians 2:2 Wherein in time past ye walked according to the course of this world, according to the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that now worketh in the children of disobedience:

Ephesians 2:3 Among whom also we all had our conversation in times past in the lusts of our flesh, fulfilling the desires of the flesh and of the mind; and were by nature the children of wrath, even as others.

We all have experienced this death, and in fact we are born totally blind.

We are totally alienated in our thinking. We are in fact born physically into this world DEAD to God!

ROMANS 3 Gives a clear description of the natural man.

Romans 3:10 As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:

Romans 3:11 There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God.

Romans 3:12 They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one.

Romans 3:13 Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:

Romans 3:14 Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:

Romans 3:15 Their feet are swift to shed blood:

Romans 3:16 Destruction and misery are in their ways:

Romans 3:17 And the way of peace have they not known:

Romans 3:18 There is no fear of God before their eyes.

I Corinthians 15:22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.

Death in essence is a separation. In the Bible when the prodigal son left home his dad said this, my son was dead. (see Luke 15:24). Did his heart stop beating? No, they were separated. His son was running away from the authority of his father. What caused this separation? SIN!

So just like Adam and Eve were running from God, so too, the prodigal son was running from his father. So his father said, he was dead! When he came back in humility and repentance, he became alive to his father.

2. *Since we all have already experienced a separation from God. We only face one of two other deaths.*

The only other death experiences we face are.

A. *PHYSICAL DEATH.*

This is when the Body returns to the dust.

B. *SOUL DEATH .*

This is when the soul of those who reject Christ are separated from God eternally in a place called hell.

III. *CONCERNING PHYSICAL DEATH:*

1. *WE ALL MUST NOW FACE PHYSICAL DEATH.*

This is usually the death that everyone is afraid of, but we all will someday experience.

Ecclesiastes describes physical death in these terms.

Ecclesiastes 12:6 Or ever the silver cord be loosed, or the golden bowl be broken, or the pitcher be broken at the fountain, or the wheel broken at the cistern.

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.

Someday the silver cord will be loosed.

Our bodies wear out, thus pictured by the silver cord being loosed.

We get old and these frail bodies are worn out.

Rubber bands, or like strings on an instrument that have been stretched for the last time, the spirit is released from the Body.

Genesis 25:8 Then Abraham gave up the ghost, and died in a good old age, an old man, and full of years; and was gathered to his people.

Genesis 35:29 And Isaac gave up the ghost, and died, and was gathered unto his people, being old and full of days: and his sons Esau and Jacob buried him.

Mark 15:37 And Jesus cried with a loud voice, and gave up the ghost.

The ghost is a synonym for soul.

When our soul leaves our body the body is dead.

Everyone, except the few that will be taken in the rapture, will experience this death!

This is the first of the two final deaths that we all must face.

We all have already experience spiritual death in Adam.
We all will face physical death when our physical bodies expire.

2. *THOSE WHO ARE SAVED WILL NOT FACE ANY OTHER DEATH AND IN FACT THOSE WHO ARE PRESENT WHEN CHRIST RETURNS WILL EVEN EXSCAPE THIS DEATH.*

I Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed,

I Corinthians 15:52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

I Corinthians 15:53 For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality.

I Corinthians 15:54 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.

I Corinthians 15:55 O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?

I Corinthians 15:56 The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law.

I Corinthians 15:57 But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

For those who are saved and are God's children, God calls physical death but sleep.

John 11:25 Jesus said unto her, I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

John 11:26 And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?

According to our Lord, if you are saved, you will not face eternal death. Even when our physical bodies expire, God calls that sleep for believers. The reason why is because according to the Bible that is only a temporary state for the believer. Someday the Bible says God will resurrect us from the dead. Just like Jesus was resurrected, so too this is our blessed hope!

IV. *THE DEATH THAT EVERYONE SHOULD FEAR IS WHAT THE BIBLE CALLS THE SECOND DEATH.*

1. *WE SHOULD FEAR THE SECOND DEATH MORE THAN THE FIRST.*

Matthew 10:28 And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Those who reject Christ will be cast into hell. Both body and soul.

Jesus gave severe warning about hell.

How is it that we are now afraid to preach on hell because people may be offended?

What is a worse offence to not preach the truth or preach the truth?

What is the worst thing that will happen if we preach a strong message?

What if I scare someone who is saved and make them think they are unsaved, and they get right with the Lord? Or make people feel uncomfortable?

What is the worst thing that can happen if we fail to warn people about impending judgment! The worst thing that happens is that they get mad at me. I would rather them get upset at me and get someone saved then to tip toe through the subject and make a lost person think he is all right.

I went to visit a wealthy man who had visited our church. When I went there I asked him if he was saved. He got greatly offended that I asked him that and shared the gospel with him. He rejected the gospel and just before I left he said, it would have been better that I never visited him. The Bible says,

II Corinthians 2:15 For we are unto God a sweet savour of Christ, in them that are saved, and in them that perish:

II Corinthians 2:16 To the one we are the savour of death unto death; and to the other the savour of life unto life. And who is sufficient for these things?

The gospel is good news to those who accept it, but it is bad news to those who reject it.

The question I ask you this morning is this: IS THIS MESSAGE TRUE AND IS IT REALLY REAL? If it is, then what kind of people are we to not share it?

We are not playing politics here. There is only one reason the Republicans are having an FBI investigation on Brett Kavanaugh, it is because the DemonCrats have them backed in a corner. They are afraid of losing women votes in the mid term elections. It is a game of politics. It is not what is right, it is not what is true it is who you can please.

Preaching is not a game of politics. I refuse to play politics when it comes to the Word of God. The Bible is not up for a vote. Right is right and wrong is wrong no matter what people think. Satan is the ultimate politician, he thrives in political arenas. He is also called the accuser of the brethren. He accuses people of evil all the time because he is evil.

In his first election to the Senate, Lyndon Baines Johnson overcame a 20,000-vote deficit in a primary runoff election thanks to votes that, as biographer Robert A. Caro and others have argued, were manufactured. Most famously, 202 Mexican-American voters, some already deceased, cast ballots in alphabetical order at the last minute on election day in Jim Wells County.

It has been well known that Lyndon Johnson at the last moment spread a vicious lie about his opponent that he committed bestiality just to get him to angrily deny it and look bad at the last moment. It didn't matter that it was a lie, it just mattered how it looked.

This is the world of politics. The church should not be about politics but I am afraid it has become that. Many churches and preachers are trying to stack up votes.

There will be no dirty tricks you will play in Judgement day!

2. THE SECOND DEATH IS CLEARLY EXPLAINED IN THE BIBLE.

Revelation 20:11 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.

Revelation 20:12 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.

Revelation 20:13 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.

Revelation 20:14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

Revelation 20:15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

CONCLUSION

Death for the Christian is but a transition into everlasting life.

Death for the non believer is eternal death.

Some people say, I can't believe a loving God would ever allow people to suffer in such a place as hell.

Problem with that statement is that people are already experiencing tremendous suffering in this life.

What Jesus suffered on the cross was the penalty of our hell. He satisfied all the righteousness demands of hell.

The suffering of hell has to be at least as bad as what He suffered on the cross.

HOW CAN YOU DENY THAT THERE IS SUFFERING IN THIS LIFE? IF GOD ALLOWS THIS SUFFERING NOW, WHAT MAKES A PERSON THINK HE WOULD NOT ALLOW SUFFERING TO CONTINUE INTO ETERNITY!

This is not something we need to argue, it is a fact.

In fact have you not heard people say, I think hell is in this life.

Meaning, there seems to be enough suffering into the present.

NOW IF GOD ALLOWS SUCH SUFFERING NOW, WHY WOULD IT AMAZE YOU HE COULD ALLOW MORE IN THE AFTER LIFE?!

AND WHY IS THERE SUFFERING NOW?

The reason is that this world is alienated from God.

Satan now is the god of this world and he is the author of death, sickness, disease, etc.. He is a devourer.

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

NOTICE WHO JESUS ATTRIBUTED SICKNESS TO.

Luke 13:11 And, behold, there was a woman which had a spirit of infirmity eighteen years, and was bowed together, and could in no wise lift up herself.

Luke 13:12 And when Jesus saw her, he called her to him, and said unto her, Woman, thou art loosed from thine infirmity.

Luke 13:13 And he laid his hands on her: and immediately she was made straight, and glorified God.

Luke 13:14 And the ruler of the synagogue answered with indignation, because that Jesus had healed on the sabbath day, and said unto the people, There are six days in which men ought to work: in them therefore come and be healed, and not on the sabbath day.

Luke 13:15 The Lord then answered him, and said, Thou hypocrite, doth not each one of you on the sabbath loose his ox or his ass from the stall, and lead him away to watering?

Luke 13:16 And ought not this woman, being a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan hath bound, lo, these eighteen years, be loosed from this bond on the sabbath day?

Luke 13:17 And when he had said these things, all his adversaries were ashamed: and all the people rejoiced for all the glorious things that were done by him.

PAUL ATTRIBUTED SATAN AS THE AUTHOR OF HIS PHYSICAL AFFLICTION.

II Corinthians 12:7 And lest I should be exalted above measure through the abundance of the revelations, there was given to me a thorn in the flesh, the messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I should be exalted above measure.

THIS IS THE SPIRITUAL BATTLE. AND WHEN WE RECEIVE CHRIST WE ARE TRANSLATED FROM THE KINGDOM OF SATAN TO THE KINGDOM OF LIGHT.

SUNDAY EVENING 9-30-18
UNDERSTANDING HOW SATAN HAS THE POWER OF DEATH

Hebrews 2:14 Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil;

Hebrews 2:15 And deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.

I. SATAN DECEIVED ADAM AND EVE AND GAINED POWER OVER THEM.

Romans 6:16 Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey; whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness?

Romans 6:17 But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you.

Romans 6:18 Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness.

II. SATAN IS CALLED THE ACCUSER OF THE BRETHREN..

Revelation 12:7 And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,

Revelation 12:8 And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven.

Revelation 12:9 And the great dragon was cast out, that old serpent, called the Devil, and Satan, which deceiveth the whole world: he was cast out into the earth, and his angels were cast out with him.

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

Revelation 12:11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb, and by the word of their testimony; and they loved not their lives unto the death.

Revelation 12:12 Therefore rejoice, ye heavens, and ye that dwell in them. Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and of the sea! for the devil is come down unto you, having great wrath, because he knoweth that he hath but a short time.

Satan accuses men of sin and gets power to afflict them accordingly.

Notice how it worked in the book of Job.

Job 1:6 Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them.

Job 1:7 And the LORD said unto Satan, Whence comest thou? Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 1:8 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil?

Job 1:9 Then Satan answered the LORD, and said, Doth Job fear God for nought?

Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.

Job 1:11 But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 1:12 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand. So Satan went forth from the presence of the LORD.

Job 2:1 Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

Job 2:2 And the LORD said unto Satan, From whence comest thou? And Satan answered the LORD, and said, From going to and fro in the earth, and from walking up and down in it.

Job 2:3 And the LORD said unto Satan, Hast thou considered my servant Job, that there is none like him in the earth, a perfect and an upright man, one that feareth God, and escheweth evil? and still he holdeth fast his integrity, although thou movedst me against him, to destroy him without cause.

Job 2:4 And Satan answered the LORD, and said, Skin for skin, yea, all that a man hath will he give for his life.

Job 2:5 But put forth thine hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse thee to thy face.

Job 2:6 And the LORD said unto Satan, Behold, he is in thine hand; but save his life.

Job 2:7 So went Satan forth from the presence of the LORD, and smote Job with sore boils from the sole of his foot unto his crown.

Job 2:8 And he took him a potsherd to scrape himself withal; and he sat down among the ashes.

Job 2:9 Then said his wife unto him, Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die.

Job 2:10 But he said unto her, Thou speakest as one of the foolish women speaketh. What? shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil? In all this did not Job sin with his lips.

III. NOTICE HOW THE DEVIL WAS THERE TO CLAIM THE BODY OF MOSES WHEN HE DIED.

Jude 1:9 Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee.

Note: why were they contending over the body of Moses?

Satan somehow has the power of death and is involved in the process of death.

Though we don't understand the nuts and bolts of this we can know that for some reason the burial of Moses was different and Satan wanted what was his, a sinful man's body. All have sinned and when we sin we give ground to Satan.

IV. SINCE SATAN IS THE CUSTODIAN OF DEATH IS IT FITTING THAT HIS HABITATION IS THE RESERVOIR OF FIRE CALLED THE SECOND DEATH.

Matthew 25:41 Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:

Hell is not a place prepared for people, if people go there it is only because they have rejected the gift of salvation that our Lord has offered them.

EZE 33:11 Say unto them, As I live, saith the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked; but that the wicked turn from his way and live: turn ye, turn ye from your evil ways; for why will ye die, O house of Israel?

Jesus paid for the sins of the world.

1Tim. 4:10 For therefore we both labour and suffer reproach, because we trust in the living God, who is the Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe.

The offer of salvation is legitimately offered to all men. Yet all men will not come to Christ. The reason why, is that they love darkness rather than light (cf. John 3:19). Satan is the prince of darkness and therefore they love him and his kingdom more than Christ. They therefore are condemned to spend eternity with him in hell and the lake of fire.

This is called the second death and this is to be feared above any things else. How sad it is that we fear offending people by preaching and teaching this truth.

I remember when I first heard the gospel. It was so clear and simple. If you trust Jesus Christ as your Lord and Saviour you will be saved and not have to suffer eternal hell. If you do not receive Him you are damned. Pretty simple. BLACK AND WHITE.

When I heard it I thought to myself if I really believe this, what kind of person would I be not to share this with everyone. Then a great fear came over me. It was the fear that I might become a preacher. Imagine that, a preacher. You have to read my tract "not me" to realize why this scared me. It took over a year for me to meditate on this and for God to work in my heart for me to receive the gospel message.

I was right .. "What Kind of person would I be if this is true and I did not share it with all my loved ones and friends..."

Paul said something similar:

ROM 9:1 I say the truth in Christ, I lie not, my conscience also bearing me witness in the Holy Ghost,

ROM 9:2 That I have great heaviness and continual sorrow in my heart.

ROM 9:3 For I could wish that myself were accursed from Christ for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh:

We have a message of life and death. Let's be faithful to proclaim that message.