

# The NATURE OF MAN

WHAT IS DEATH ?

# WHAT IS DEATH CALLED?

**Psalm 13:3** – Consider and hear me, O LORD my God: lighten mine eyes, lest I sleep the sleep of death;

# 1 Thessalonians 4:14, 15

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14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

ALSO:

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

To the believer, death is but a small matter. Christ speaks of it as if it were of little moment. “If a man keep My saying, he shall never see death,” “he shall never taste of death.” To the Christian, death is but a sleep, a moment of silence and darkness. The life is hid with Christ in God, and “when Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with Him in glory.” John 8:51, 52; Colossians 3:4. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 787.1)

# PAUL CALLS DEATH A SLEEP

## **1 Corinthians 15:51, 52**

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

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.

# How was man made? What part was made of dust? What was added to the body?

**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.

1. Dust.
2. The body or his flesh. THE MAN
3. The breath of life. Man become a living soul. Adam became a living mortal soul. Not immortal.

# THREE PARTS OF MAN

**1 Thessalonians 5:23** – And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and *I pray God* your whole spirit and soul and body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

**Job 33:4** – The Spirit of God hath made me, and the breath of the Almighty hath given me life.

# WHAT DID MAN BECOME SUBJECT TO BECAUSE OF SIN?

## **Genesis 2:15–17**

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

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

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.



# WHAT IS MAN'S NATURE?

**Job 4:17** – Shall mortal man be more just than God? shall a man be more pure than his maker?

**Romans 6:12** – Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof.

**2 Corinthians 4:11** – For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh.

# STATE OF MAN IN DEATH

## **Job 14:20–22**

20. Thou prevailest for ever against him, and he passeth: thou changest his countenance, and sendest him away.

21. His sons come to honour, and he knoweth it not; and they are brought low, but he perceiveth it not of them.

22. But his flesh upon him shall have pain, and his soul within him shall mourn.

# MORAL MAN

**Ecclesiastes 8:8** – There is no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither hath he power in the day of death: and there is no discharge in that war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.

# THE STATE OF THE DEAD

**Ecclesiastes 9:5** – For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.

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

# WAIT UNTIL WHAT TIME

## Job 14:10–14

10. But man dieth, and wasteth away: yea, man giveth up the ghost, and where *is He*?

11. As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:

12. So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens *be* no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

13. O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

14. If a man die, shall he live *again*? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

# WHAT CHANGE TAKES PLACE AT DEATH

**Ecclesiastes 9:6** – Also their love, and their hatred, and their envy, is now perished; neither have they any more a portion for ever in any thing that is done under the sun.

**Psalms 146:4** – His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish.

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

# TO WHAT IS THIS MORTAL LIFE COMPARED?

**James 4:14** – 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.

**Psalms 78:39** – For he remembered that they *were but* flesh; a wind that passeth away, and cometh not again.

**Job 14:2** – He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

# HOW CAN MORTAL HAVE ETERNAL LIFE?

**2 Timothy 2:10** – But is now made manifest by the appearing of our Saviour Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel:

**JOHN 10:10** –The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have *it* more abundantly.



# WHAT THEN OUGHT WE TO SEEK?

**Romans 2:7** – To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life:

**1 Corinthians 15:51–54** – Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 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. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. 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.

## 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18

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.

14. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him.

15. For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep.

16. For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:

17. Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.

18. Wherefore comfort one another with these words.

# What can the dead do?

**Psalms 115:17** – The dead praise not the LORD, neither any that go down into silence.

**Isaiah 38:18** – For the grave cannot praise thee, death can *not* celebrate thee: they that go down into the pit cannot hope for thy truth.

**Isaiah 38:19** – The living, the living, he shall praise thee, as I *do* this day: the father to the children shall make known thy truth.

# MAN AND BEASTS

## **Ecclesiastes 3:19, 20**

19. For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all *is* vanity.

20. All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.

# What can the living do?

**Psalm 146:2** – While I live will I praise the LORD: I will sing praises unto my God while I have any being.

soul, self, life, creature, person, appetite, mind, living being, desire, emotion, passion

- that which breathes, the breathing substance or being, soul, the inner being of man
- living being
- living being (with life in the blood)
- the man himself, self, person or individual

# LAZARUS DIED AFTER 4 DAYS JESUS SAID

## **John 11:11–14**

11. 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.

12. Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.

13. Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.

14. Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.

# INDIVIDUALS SLEEPING

**Psalms 17:15** – As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness.

**Acts 13:36** – For David, after he had served his own generation by the will of God, fell on sleep, and was laid unto his fathers, and saw corruption:

# PAUL

**Acts 24:14** – But this I confess unto thee, that after the way which they call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers, believing all things which are written in the law and in the prophets:

**Acts 24:15** – And have hope toward God, which they themselves also allow, that there shall be a resurrection of the dead, both of the just and unjust.



*Testimonies for the Church, vol. 3, p. 147.1a*

Choose poverty, reproach, separation from friends, or any suffering rather than to defile the soul with sin. Death before dishonor or the transgression of God's law should be the motto of every Christian. As a people professing to be reformers, treasuring the most solemn, purifying truths of God's word, we must elevate the standard far higher than it is at the present time.

**Romans 6:23** – For the wages of sin *is* death; but the gift of God *is* eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

# To obey is better than sacrifice!

Satan offers to men the kingdoms of the world if they will yield to him the supremacy. Many do this and sacrifice heaven. It is better to die than to sin; better to want than to defraud; better to hunger than to lie.—(*Testimonies for the Church*, vol. 4, p. 495 – 1880)

**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:

# THIS INCLUDED ALL THE DEAD

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

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

# CHRIST HAS AUTHORITY AND POWER

## JOHN 5:25–29

**25.** 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.

**26.** For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself;

**27.** And hath given him authority to execute judgment also, because he is the Son of man.

**28.** Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice,

**29.** 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.

NOTE: IN THEIR OWN ORDER

The Saviour continued: “What things soever He [the Father] doeth, these also doeth the Son likewise.... As the Father raiseth up the dead, and quickeneth them; even so the Son quickeneth whom He will.” The Sadducees held that there would be no resurrection of the body; but Jesus tells them that one of the greatest works of His Father is raising the dead, and that He Himself has power to do the same work. “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.” The Pharisees believed in the resurrection of the dead. Christ declares that even now the power which gives life to the dead is among them, and they are to behold its manifestation. This same resurrection power is that which gives life to the soul “dead in trespasses and sins.” Ephesians 2:1. That spirit of life in Christ Jesus, “the power of His resurrection,” sets men “free from the law of sin and death.” Philippians 3:10; Romans 8:2. The dominion of evil is broken, and through faith the soul is kept from sin. He who opens his heart to the Spirit of Christ becomes a partaker of that mighty power which shall bring forth his body from the grave. (*The Desire of Ages*, p. 209.3)

# THE OVERCOMERS

**Revelation 2:11** – He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.

**Revelation 20:6** – Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years.