

Why Do People Die? Romans 6.23

For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. Romans 6.23

Not EASY to think about DEATH > REASONS Why DENY it

Finality > Nothing is as UNCHANGING as a GRAVEYARD

1. The Reality of Death –

FEAR of Death > Punch to Solarplexis > Wake up Cold Sweat

I am not afraid of death; I just don't want to be there when it happens. Woody Allen

WEAPON in DEVIL'S HAND: ...him who holds the power of death - that is, the devil...those who all their lives were held in slavery by their *fear of death* Hebrews 2.14-15

Prince of this FALLEN World > HOLDS FEAR OF DEATH

“just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned” Romans 5.12

Should Not be Surprised – One thing we ALL have in COMMON

All people are Destined to Die > Appointment with ETERNITY

2. The Reason for Death

“the wages (PAYMENT) for sin is death”

DONE Something to EARN our DEATH > JUST PENALTY for Sin

BIBLE: Death presented in LEGAL Terms more than PHYSICAL Effect

2nd Chapter of Bible “when you eat this fruit...you will die”

Last 2 chapters of Bible > Fate of the Unrepentant is SECOND DEATH

“But what fruit were you getting at that time from the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death.” Romans 6.21

Sin Pays Wages / Get what you Deserve

NOT PHYSICAL DEATH > Righteous also experience Physical Death

ETERNAL Death > HELL > EVERLASTING Punishment for SIN

WARNING given by GOD to Father ADAM in Garden...

“the Lord God commanded the man, saying, “You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 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.”
Genesis 2.16,17

Every crime carries some punishment; the crime of sin is punished by death. Sinners have broken their relationship with the Life Giver.

3. The Redeemer from Death -- “Christ Jesus our Lord”

“Wretched man that I am! Who will deliver me from this body of death? Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!” Romans 7.24,25

Biblical REASON for X’s Death > Paid God’s Legal Penalty for Sin

HE PAID PENALTY IN FULL “once for all” / Resurrection CONFIRMS

WE DIED TO SIN > BECAUSE HE DIED IN OUR PLACE > Substitute

“we are convinced that one died for all, and therefore all died” 2 Cor 5.14

Only Jesus has conquered death, He is risen! He is the Lord & Life Giver.

“Life is resurrection anticipated, resurrection is life consummated” John Stott

GUARANTEE OF THIS NEW LIFE

v. 9 “For we know that since Christ was raised from the dead, he cannot die again; death no longer has mastery over him.”

Ap Peter: “it was impossible for death to keep its hold on him.” Acts 2.24

v. 10 “he died to sin once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God”

English Physicist – Stephen Hawking > “Black Holes” in Outer Space

Collapsed STAR such DENSITY & GRAVITY > NOTHING CAN ESCAPE IT

NOT EVEN LIGHT CAN ESCAPE > appears as Dark Spot in Heavens

OBJECTS rush toward it at Speed of Light & Approach Infinite Mass

RESULT: Normal Laws of Physics Loose Meaning / No one Knows What Happens

IDEA? – Objects shoot thru Black Hole into another Time or Existence

WE HAVE DIED WITH CHRIST / WE HAVE RISEN WITH CHRIST

WE HAVE PASSED THROUGH THE GOSPEL BLACK HOLE
 WE ENTERED NEW & UNCHARTERED REALM OF GOD’S GRACE
 WE CAN NEVER RETURN TO OUR FORMER EXISTENCE

4. The Release from Death -- “the gift of God is eternal life”

The punishment of sin is earned, like wages earned for our work.

But salvation cannot be earned, it is completely free and undeserved, it is a gift from Him who defeated death.

How are you relating to God?

Is He a “boss” who you “work for” and thus expect payment?

If so, you will be lost, because His standards and expectations are perfect.

BOTTOM LINE – Only 2 Religions in World – DO and DONE

DO Religion > Many Different Histories, Teachings, Rituals, Followers

MANY Religions 1 Basic IDEA > We do something to please God,

Earn Favor/ Forgiveness – Prayers – Hajj – Fasting – Rituals – Traditions

Thank God imperfect sinners like us can come to Him and find grace.

“God helps those who cannot help themselves.” NOT IN BIBLE

BIBLE – God helps those who CANNOT help themselves!

MERCY – God does NOT give us what we DESERVE

GRACE – God DOES give us what we DO NOT Deserve

“For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 Romans 8.38,39

God gives us what we do NOT deserve -- mercy and free salvation.

Come receive God’s gift of Eternal Life thru Jesus Christ!

January 30, 1965 Funeral of Sir Winston Churchill >

Bugler high in Dome of St. Paul's Cathedral

Played TAPS > Military Song to Mark END of the DAY >

Sad, Somber Moment

FINISHED TAPS > Immediately played REVEILLE >

Tune: BEGIN NEW Day

End of THIS LIFE is Only Beginning of Eternal Day in Christ

Apostle Paul: "There is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing." 2 Timothy 4.8