

### Death

Linville Dunaway, Corinth Christian Church

Death, what do you think of it? What do we know about it? I would think that mankind fears it more than any thing else. Why? For one thing it seems so final. We have all been parted from family, friends, and others by death. Many do not like to consider it, but deep within us we know that one day, if the Lord tarries, we will have to face it for our selves. I think that I remember times when someone had an accident, or some close call, and shaken they would say, "Why, I might have been killed!" It was as though they had never thought of it before. Now is the time to think of it, not when it comes to us.

The Sadducees were a group who believed that death was the end of everything. Maybe they were the first atheists for they said that there is no resurrection, neither angel, nor spirit. Since God is a Spirit, then it would seem that they didn't really believe in God. Yet, God is real, angels are real, and death and the resurrection are

real as well.

Death is not something that we have to fear if we are a Christian. I know that we may dread to think about it, let alone to face it, but we have hope in God that the unbeliever doesn't have. **1 Corinthians 15: 55**, "O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?" Our God has power over death and has defeated it. Jesus raised Lazarus and others, and although they faced death a second time, they that followed the Lord will arise to eternal life at the resurrection. Jesus is the first to rise to die no more, and by his grace the saved will likewise arise one day to live with him forever.

For the Christian physical death is described as sleep. In **John chapter 11** although Lazarus had died, Jesus said, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep." (**verse 11**). The body dies but the spirit goes unto the Lord. Jesus went and raised Lazarus from the dead and he lived as he had before. Still some would point out that he died a second time. Sure, he did, and like the others that Jesus raised from death he would live for a number of years then die. Why? This was not the great resurrection but

they were raised to show man that God has the power over death itself. Jesus is the first to rise from the dead to die no more.

Those who die in Christ have a hope and promise that the ungodly do not have. God's people will be raised to live with him forever, while the lost will be apart from the Lord forever. In **Luke 16:22** we are shown the difference, as the Lord says, "And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham's bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried." Lazarus is carried by the angels while the rich man is buried. The rich man had no comfort, no help, and no hope. He had wasted his opportunity for salvation and learning about God in the pursuit of the things of this world. When, and only when, it was too late he wished he had made different decisions in life.

Death is something that we have to face in this life. Those who are ready when God calls the church out of this world won't have to go through death, but all others will. While a believer may face death he doesn't have to fear it. **Psalms 48:14**, "For this God is our God for ever and ever: he will be our guide even unto death."

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...BY HERITAGE, ALWAYS NOMADIC SHEPHERDS, WHO FOLLOWED THEIR EVER-MOVING HERDS TO GREENER PASTURES SINCE THE DAYS OF ABRAHAM, WERE WONT TO PICK UP ALL THEIR BELONGINGS AND LEAVE THEIR HOMES TO SEARCH FOR AREAS UNAFFECTED BY THE FAMINE. SOMETIMES THEY WOULD STAY IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY FOR GENERATIONS, BUT ALWAYS LOOKED UPON THEIR TRUE HOME AS THE ONE WHICH THEY HAD LEFT YEARS BEFORE — TO WHICH SOME FUTURE GENERATION WOULD EVENTUALLY RETURN!

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