

Things to Come

What Happens When We Die?

Luke 16:19-31; 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Introduction: No one was probably more _____ about death and dying than Woody Allen who said, “I’m not afraid of death; I just don’t want to be there when it happens.”

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Grace Bible Church

A lot of ideas about death “I do not fear death. I had been dead for billions and billions of years before I was born, and had not suffered the slightest inconvenience from it.” — Mark Twain

“To the well-organized mind, death is but the next great adventure.” Albus Dumbledore

Death is a reality every human being will face _____.
(vs 10) Only been two exceptions, Enoch and Elijah, and those who are raptured in the future,

Death is _____ - “Come now, you who say, “Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and make a profit” — yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say, “If the Lord wills, we will live and do this or that.” As it is, you boast in your arrogance. All such boasting is evil. So whoever knows the right thing to do and fails to do it, for him it is sin.” (James 4:13–17, ESV)

“I wish it need not have happened in my time,” said Frodo. “So do I,” said Gandalf, “and so do all who live to see such times. But that is not for them to decide. All we have to decide is what to do with the time that is given us.” — J.R.R. Tolkien, [The Fellowship of the Ring](#)

Death is _____ - only one person has travelled to the other side and return to talk about it, There is a lot of fear of the unknown

Death is _____. “*Jesus wept.*” (John 11:35, ESV) Grief pours forth

Death is _____. One of the great fears people have is dying alone. People want to be surrounded by family and friends. “You’ll stay with me?’ Until the very end,’ said James.” — J. K. Rowling, [Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows](#)

Key thought: Death is a _____ from one living realm (material world) to the spiritual world. To understand what happens when we die, we need to know:

- I. Death was not part of God’s _____.
Genesis 2
 - A. The origin of death was not physical, We do not die because we are physical creatures
 - B. The origin of death was not finiteness. We were created finite creatures- only God is infinite.
 - C. The origin of death is beyond me, separated by time and space. I can do nothing about it by myself
 - D. The origin of death is found in our moral nature. It is located in a moral failure.
- II. Death was God’s _____ against sin. Concerning the character of death we said:
 - A. Death is imposed upon us from outside. “The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law.” (1 Corinthians 15:56)
 - B. Death is a separation.
 1. Physical death is a separation of our bodies from our souls
 2. The second death is a separation of human beings from God forever
 - C. Death is an end to a circumstance, not existence.

D. Death is an enemy that Christ has overcome “The last enemy to be destroyed is death.” (1 Corinthians 15:26, ESV)

III. To overcome death you must overcome _____.
“Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.” (Hebrews 2:14–15, ESV)

A. Christ is stronger than the enemy

B. Christ reveals the devil’s lies

C. Christ suffered death in our place. “For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,” (1 Peter 3:18, ESV)

IV. When we die the transition is _____. “And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.”” (Luke 23:43, ESV)

A. Our station in this life will not matter. The last (Lazarus) will be first and the first (rich man) will be last.

B. There are no second chances after we die- the questions are answer. “A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.” (Ecclesiastes 7:1, ESV)

C. There are many who teach those who died before the resurrection was placed in a special holding place that was made up of two compartments: Abraham’s bosom or hell. That Christ led the OT saints out of this place to be with him. “But grace was given to each one of us according to the measure of Christ’s gift. Therefore it says, “When he ascended on high he led a host of captives, and he gave gifts to men.” (In saying, “He ascended,” what does it mean but that he had also descended into the lower regions, the earth? He who descended is the one who also ascended far above all the heavens, that he might fill all things.)” (Ephesians 4:7–10, ESV)

Conclusion: What is your goal or aim in life? You cannot escape death the only question is will you be prepared for it. “So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him.” (2 Corinthians 5:9, ESV)

The answer to death is life. John 10:10; 14:6

If death is rooted in our wrong choice, life will result from our right choice.

If death is primarily a separation, life is primarily a reconciliation.

If death is both universal and individual, life must be offered to all to me.