

ESCHATOLOGY – I

"Physical Death"

I. ESCHATOLOGY.

A. Definition.

1. Study dealing with the ultimate destiny or purpose of mankind and the world.
2. Study of things of final importance to mankind.
3. The study of "last things."

B. Eschatological issues.

1. Death and resurrection.
2. Coming of the Lord; "rapture;" or the final change.
3. The final judgments.
4. The "millenium."
5. Heaven and hell.

II. WHAT IS PHYSICAL DEATH?

A. The origin of death.

1. ***In the day you eat...***(Gen 2:17 KJV) *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.*
2. ***By one man's sin...***(Rom 5:12 KJV) *Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:*

B. Physical death is the separation of the soul, including the spirit, from the body.

C. Distinguished from spiritual death, or separation of the soul from God.

D. Distinguished from the second death, or the banishment from God and final misery of the reunited soul and body of the wicked.

E. To neither the saint nor the sinner is death a cessation of being.

1. A termination of earthly existence, but not an extinction of his being or his consciousness.
2. By coming back from the tomb, Jesus proved death is not annihilation (2 Tim 1:10 KJV) *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:*
3. The rich man and Lazarus.

III. WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A PERSON DIES?

A. The intermediate state.

1. Scriptures teach the existence of both the righteous and the wicked, after death, and prior to the resurrection.
2. In the intermediate state, the soul is without its permanent body.

- a. This state is for the righteous one of conscious joy.
- b. For the wicked, one of conscious suffering.
- 3. Resurrection to be futuristic.
 - a. (1 Th 4:16 KJV) *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: 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.*
 - b. (1 Cor 15:52 KJV) *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.*
 - c. It was an error to say that the resurrection was "past already." (2 Tim 2:18 KJV) *Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some.*
 - d. There shall be a resurrection (Acts 24:15 KJV) *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.*
 - e. Jesus was firstfruit. If saints had received the permanent body at death, the patriarchs would have been raised before Christ.
- B. The intermediate state of the righteous.
 - 1. The soul of the believer, at its separation from the body, enters the presence of Christ.
 - a. (2 Cor 5:1 KJV) *For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed upon with our house which is from heaven: If so be that being clothed we shall not be found naked. For we that are in this tabernacle do groan, being burdened: not for that we would be unclothed, but clothed upon, that mortality might be swallowed up of life. Now he that hath wrought us for the selfsame thing is God, who also hath given unto us the earnest of the Spirit. Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*
 - b. (Luke 23:43 KJV) *And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, To day shalt thou be with me in paradise.*
 - 2. The spirits of departed believers are with God.
 - a. (Heb 12:23 KJV) *To the general assembly and church of the firstborn, which are written in heaven, and to God the Judge of all, and to the spirits of just men made perfect...*
 - b. (Eccl 12:7 KJV) *Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.*
 - 3. The state of the believer, immediately after death, is greatly to be preferred to life in the body upon the earth (Phil 1:23 KJV) *For I am in a strait*

betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:

4. The departed saints are truly alive and conscious.
 - a. (Luke 16:22 KJV) *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...*
 - b. (1 Th 5:10 KJV) *Who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him.*
5. The departed believers are in a state of rest and blessedness.
 - a. Rev. 6:9-11 *And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:(Rev 6:10 KJV) And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? (Rev 6:11 KJV) And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.*
 - b. (Rev 14:13 KJV) *And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.*

- C. The intermediate state of the wicked.
1. They are in prison, that is, are under constraint and guard--there is no need of putting unconscious spirits under guard.
 2. They are in torment, or conscious suffering (Luke 16:23 KJV) *And in hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments, and seeth Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*
 3. They are under punishment awaiting the judgment. (Heb 9:27 KJV) *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*

IV. TWO ERRONEOUS VIEWS REFUTED.

- A. Soul sleep.
 1. I am the God of the living and not of the dead.
 2. God identified Himself as the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
- B. Purgatory.

V. DEATH ISSUES.

- A. Premature death.
- B. Suicide.
- C. Euthanasia.
 1. An easy death or means of inducing one.
 2. The act or practice of painlessly putting to death persons suffering from incurable conditions or diseases.
- D. Living will.

1. "No code."
2. Assistance in dying.
- E. Infanticide. "Killing of a newly or recently born child; a practice of killing infants.
- F. Feticide - "The act of killing a fetus; illegal abortion."
- G. Abortion.
 1. Definition - To stop the development of something; to terminate prematurely.
 2. aborticide - The act of destroying a fetus within the uterus.
 3. Facts of abortion:
 - a. Exercise of mother's will. It's her choice; her body. If against her will, could be murder; if her will, legal abortion.
 - b. One's rights end where another begins.
 - c. More respect for bald eagles and baby whales.
 4. What does the Bible say about existence before birth?

(Psa 139:14 KJV) *I will praise thee; for I am fearfully and wonderfully made: marvellous are thy works; and that my soul knoweth right well.* (Psa 139:15 KJV) *My substance was not hid from thee, when I was made in secret, and curiously wrought in the lowest parts of the earth.* (Psa 139:16 KJV) *Thine eyes did see my substance, yet being unperfect; and in thy book all my members were written, which in continuance were fashioned, when as yet there was none of them.*

(Jer 1:5 KJV) *Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee, and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations.*
 1. Is abortion murder?
 2. What happens to aborted babies?

VI. ATTITUDE TOWARD DEATH.

- A. Not to be feared. "*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; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage.*" (Heb. 2:14-15).
- B. Not to be pursued or meditated upon (death wish).
- C. Not to be glorified or deified.
- D. Not to be desensitized; but to be respected
- E. Not to be taken into own hands.

VII. ATTITUDE TOWARD LIFE.

- A. Choose life. (Deu 30:19 KJV) *I call heaven and earth to record this day against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live:*
- B. He that would love life. (1 Pet 3:10 KJV) *For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:*
- C. Elongation of life.

(1 Ki 3:14 KJV) *And if thou wilt walk in my ways, to keep my statutes and my*

commandments, as thy father David did walk, then I will lengthen thy days.
 (Psa 91:16 KJV) *With long life will I satisfy him, and show him my salvation.*
 (Prov 3:2 KJV) *For length of days, and long life, and peace, shall they add to thee.*
 (Prov 3:16 KJV) *Length of days is in her right hand; and in her left hand riches and honour.*
 (Isa 38:5 KJV) *Go, and say to Hezekiah, Thus saith the LORD, the God of David thy father, I have heard thy prayer, I have seen thy tears: behold, I will add unto thy days fifteen years.*

I. THE AFTERLIFE.

- A. What is the afterlife?
- B. Do people come back?
- C. Has anyone seen heaven and returned to tell about it?

THE ANSWER TO DEATH.

(Rom 5:17 KJV) *For if by one man's offence death reigned by one; much more they which receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness shall reign in life by one, Jesus Christ.)*
 (Rom 5:21 KJV) *That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 (Rom 6:9 KJV) *Knowing that Christ being raised from the dead dieth no more; death hath no more dominion over him.*
 (Rom 6:23 KJV) *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 (1 Cor 15:55 KJV) *O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?*