

26. Death and Resurrection

The wages of sin is death. But God, who alone is immortal, will grant eternal life to His redeemed. Until that day death is an unconscious state for all people. When Christ, who is our life, appears, the resurrected righteous and the living righteous will be glorified and caught up to meet their Lord. The second resurrection, the resurrection of the unrighteous, will take place a thousand years later.

No human being is immortal. We all would suffer eternal death if God did not grant forgiveness and eternal life to those who seek to abide in Christ.

- Only God is immortal. 1 Timothy 6:15-16
- The wages of sin is death, but God's gift is life. Romans 6:23
- Apart from Christ all would die eternally. John 15:6

All who die on this earth enter an unconscious state which the Bible calls sleep. The righteous dead will be resurrected at Christ's second coming. They, along with the living righteous, will join Christ in the clouds. The wicked dead will be resurrected after the millennium.

- The death we witness on earth is a temporary sleep. Ecclesiastes 9:5-6; Psalm 146:3-4; John 11:11-14; Revelation 14:13
- Because the dead are asleep, they cannot return to communicate with us. God warns us against efforts to make contact with them. Leviticus 20:6, 27; Deuteronomy 18:9-12
- Attempts to contact the dead may lead to deception by evil spirits. Leviticus 19:31; Isaiah 8:19-20; Revelation 16:14
- The righteous dead will be resurrected at Jesus' second coming. 1 Corinthians 15:51-54; Colossians 3:4
- The living righteous will also join Christ then. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17
- The unrighteous will rise in a separate resurrection. John 5:28-29
- There will be a thousand years between these two general resurrections. Revelation 20:1-10

Personal Application

-  Why does sin cause death?
-  Why are there two resurrections?
-  Why do we sleep in death instead of going immediately to heaven or hell?
-  I need not fear death if I abide in Christ. I am confident that He will come again to raise me to eternal life.

Commitment

- Father, it is comforting to know that death is an unconscious sleep from which Jesus will awaken those who trusted in Him in this life. I plan to join Jesus in the clouds whether or not I live to see Him come.