

St. Matthew A.M.E. Church
336 Oakwood Avenue
Orange, NJ

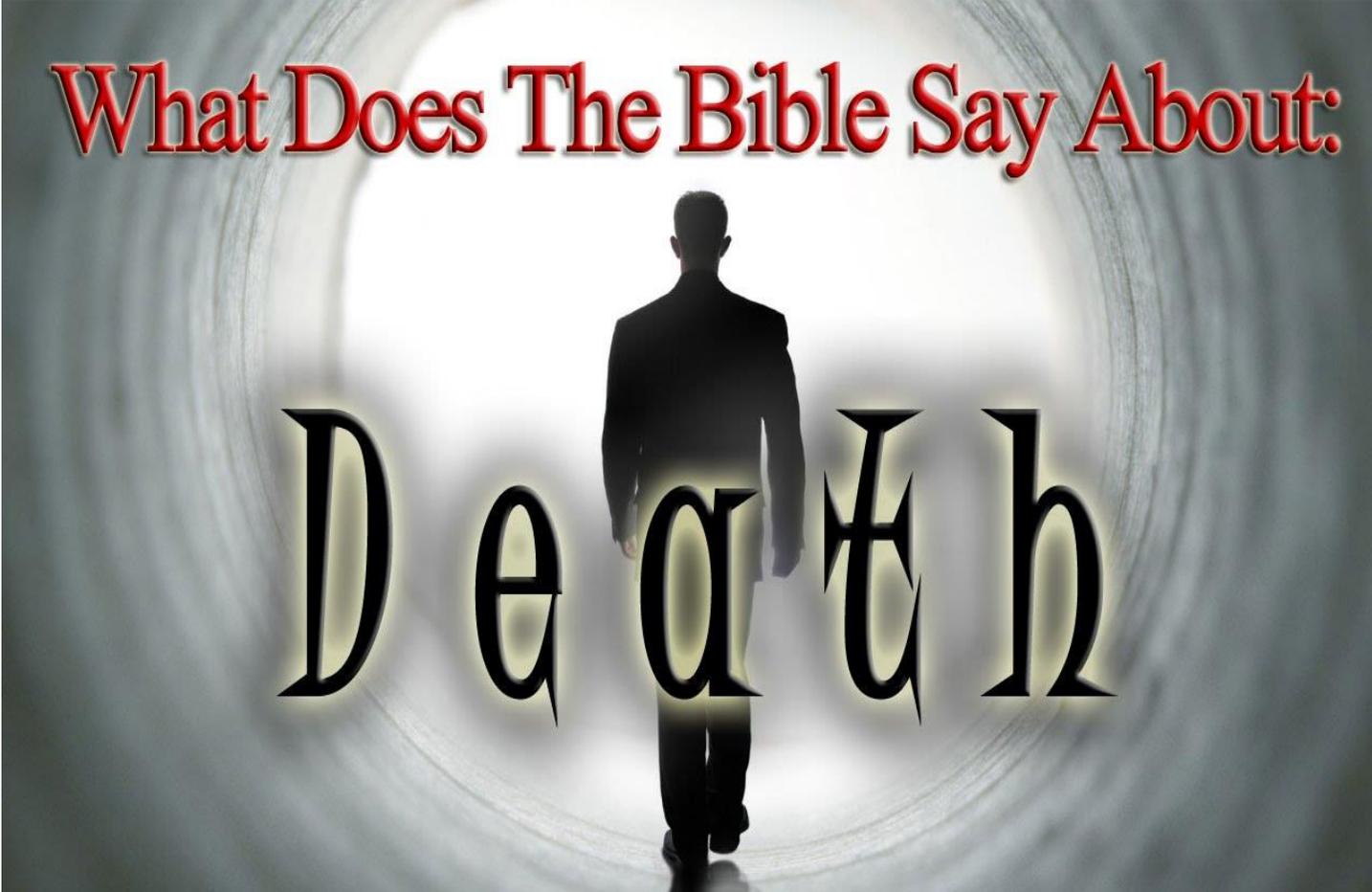
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“Pastor’s Bible Study”

What Does The Bible Say About:



Death

Tuesday, January 15, 2019
6:30 pm

I. This Is a VERY Complicated Subject To Address. Why?

- A. Because we have so many questions and there are so many connected issues, such as:
1. What is death?
 2. What happens when we die?
 3. What happens after we die?
 4. What is heaven? Where is heaven?
 5. Do we support “dichotomy” (humans are soul and spirit) or do we support “trichotomy” (humans are body, soul and spirit)?
 6. What is hell? Where is hell?
 7. What about the rapture? What is the rapture?
- B. Hermeneutical/Interpretive challenge when it comes to language.
1. Synonymous/Interchangeable words

II. We are Going to Look at What the Bible Says About Death In a Single, Focused, Limited Way

- A. Will address those other subjects and issues at a later time.

*You cannot know
the meaning of life
—unless you know
the meaning of death.*

III. Biblically Speaking, How Many Types of Death Are Mentioned?

- A. It depends on who you ask. Anywhere from 3 to 7 types. The 4 universally agreed upon types are:
- Physical death – When the mortal, physical body ceases to function. This is when there is a separation of the soul (spirit?) from the body.
 - Spiritual death – separation of the soul from God
 - Eternal death – also known as “the second death”
 - Death in/to sin – death of the sinful part of us (related to the covenant of baptism)

IV. An Important Point to Acknowledge

Neither Physical Death Nor Spiritual Death Was Part of God’s Original Plan for Creation

- God created everything, except death.

- God created Adam (Gen. 1:26-27; 2:7) & Eve (2:18, 20b-22; 3:20).
- Adam & Eve disobeyed God (3:1-7). Note the “2 trees” (Gen. 2:9).
- God disciplined Adam & Eve. Their discipline included eventual physical death for all of humanity. (Gen. 2:17; 3:11-19).

¹¹ And he said, “Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten from the tree that I commanded you not to eat from?” ¹² The man said, “The woman you put here with me—she gave me some fruit from the tree, and I ate it.” ¹³ Then the LORD God said to the woman, “What is this you have done?”

The woman said, “The serpent deceived me, and I ate.” ¹⁴ So the LORD God said to the serpent, “Because you have done this, “Cursed are you above all livestock and all wild animals! You will crawl on your belly and you will eat dust all the days of your life. ¹⁵ And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.” ¹⁶ To the woman he said, “I will make your pains in childbearing very severe; with painful labor you will give birth to children. Your desire will be for your husband, and he will rule over you.” ¹⁷ To

Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. ¹⁸ It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. ¹⁹ By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food **until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.**”

- First recorded human death in the Bible – Genesis 4:8
- Adam died – Genesis 5:5

V. Key Summary Points

1. Physically, everybody is going to die.

⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,
Hebrews 9:27

2. Physically and spiritually, God’s judgment occurs following death.

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad. – 2
Corinthians 5:10

³⁶ But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken.³⁷ For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

Matthew 12:36-37

³⁶ “But about that day or hour no one knows, not even the angels in heaven, nor the Son, but only the Father.— Matthew 24:36

³¹ For he has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man he has appointed. – Acts 17:31a

3. Spiritual death seems to have a close relationship to sin.

²³ For the wages of sin is death, - Romans 6:23a

¹² Therefore, just as sin entered the world through one man, and death through sin, and in this way death came to all people, because all sinned—³ To be sure, sin was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not charged against anyone's account where there is no law. ¹⁴ Nevertheless, death reigned from the time of Adam to the time of Moses, even over those who did not sin by breaking a command, as did Adam, who is a pattern of the one to come. - Romans 5:12-14

4. **Jesus experienced a physical death.**

⁵⁰ And when Jesus had cried out again in a loud voice, he gave up his spirit.
Matthew 27:50

5. **Jesus' death ultimately conquers both physical and spiritual death. This is one of the benefits of salvation.**

⁹ But we do see Jesus, who was made lower than the angels for a little while, now crowned with glory and honor because he suffered death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for everyone. - Hebrews 2:9

²¹ For since death came through a man, the resurrection of the dead comes also through a man. ²² For as in Adam all die, so in Christ all will be made alive. -
1 Corinthians 15:21-22

⁵⁴ When the perishable has been clothed with the imperishable, and the mortal with immortality, then the saying that is written will come true: "Death has been swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?"

⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. - 1 Corinthians 15:54-57

6. **After physical death, we will either go to be with God or Jesus will come back for the believers who are still on earth.**

¹³ Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. ¹⁴ For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. ¹⁵ According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

**Join us on the St. Matthew Prayer Line tomorrow morning at 6:30 am
(515) 604-9855, Access Code 886823#**