

CrossRoads Baptist Church  
July 16, 2006 10:00 AM  
Eternity: Heaven or Hell #1

### **“Death: Friend or Foe?”**

Hebrews 2: 13-14 (NLT) Because God’s children are human beings—made of flesh and blood—Jesus also became flesh and blood by being born in human form. For only as a human being could he die, and only by dying could he break the power of the Devil, who had the power of death. Only in this way could he deliver those who have lived all their lives as slaves to the fear of dying.

A great philosopher once said, “We can not think of this world without us in it.” Its true. It is hard for us to image this world without us. But we are all going to die. What about death?

### **I. The Certainty of Death**

Genesis 5: 5-31—eight times “and he died.”  
Ecclesiastes 9: 5 “For the living know they will die.”  
In the flood, Genesis 7:21 “all mankind died”  
Abraham faced the grim reality of death when he offered up Isaac. Though Isaac did not die, a ram did.  
Deuteronomy 31:14 “The days approach when you must die.”  
Isaiah told King Hezekiah II Kings 20:1 “Set your house in order, for you shall die, and not live.”  
Jeremiah told Hananiah, Jeremiah 28: 16 “This year you shall die.”  
Luke 16—the rich man and the beggar died  
II Corinthians 1:9 “We had the sentence of death within us.”  
Psalm 90: 5-6 “In the morning they are like grass which grows up and flourishes; in the evening it is cut down and withers.”  
Psalm 90: 10 “the days of our lives are seventy years; and if by reason of strength they are eighty years.”  
Psalm 90: 12 “So teach us to number our days...”

It is hard for the young to envision death and it is hard for the older to believe life has come and gone so quickly.

But every man and woman of every race, tribe, color and occupation will see death.

The king will lay down his crown.  
The lawyer will write his last brief.  
The athlete will play his last game.  
The poet will write his last verse.  
The editor will write his last column.  
The soldier will march in his last company.

The mother will rock her baby for the last time.

### **II. The Cause of Death**

The first mention of death is Genesis 2: 16-17 “...for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.” How strange those words must have sounded to Adam. The last mention of death is Revelation 21:4 when there will be no more death. In between the two, sin and death reigned.

Ezekiel 18:4 “The soul that sins shall die.”

James 1:15 “When desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death.”

### **III. The Classifications of Death**

There are three stages of death. You say, “death is death.” Not in God’s eyes. Hebrews 9:27 “IT is appointed unto men to die once.” So if God says you should die only once then that must mean you can die more than once.

#### **1. Physical Death**

Separation of soul and spirit from the body. It is this that I have been referring in the above Scriptures.

Man’s spirit was not earthly – it came from God. Therefore, since its origin was not from the earth, neither is its destiny to return to the earth.

Death is only for the body. It came from the earth, and it shall return to the earth. It can not go into the spirit world.

Genesis 3:19...”for dust you are and to dust you shall return.”  
Ecclesiastes 8:8 “no one has power over the spirit to retain the spirit.”

Over and over it says in the Bible, “they gave up the ghost.”

#### **2. Spiritual Death**

Ephesians 2:1 “Were dead in trespasses and sins.” 4:18 “alienated from the life of God.”

This death can happen immediately.

#### **3. Eternal Death**

II Thessalonians 1:9 “These shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord.”

Revelation 21:8 “They shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

#### **IV. The Conqueror of Death**

According to Hebrew 2: 14-15, death’s power is held by a person—the devil. Revelation 6:8 death is seen as a person riding on a pale horse.

But Jesus conqueror him and has abolished death. II Timothy 1:10 “Who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel.”

God wants us to see death for what it is. Not as a fearful experience. Not as the beginning of doom. Not as a black hole of nothingness.

II Timothy 1: 7 “God has not given us a spirit of fear.” No reason to fear death as Christians.

Yet there are many who are fearful of death. They see it as the end. Life’s final enemy. An enemy no one has been able to conquer. One that steals.

But death to Christians is a necessary experience that we welcome in order to experience all that God has bought and purchased for us in salvation. It lets us go home to be with God. It lets us shake off the old body of death, disease, corruption like dust from our clothes.

When is this victory ours? NOW. At the very moment Jesus Christ arose from the dead, in reality all death was conquered. Absolutely. Totally. He conquered death, swallowed it up, and gave to you and me the victory that we now possess.

We have the victory. The stone was rolled away and with it our fear of death was rolled away.

The only thing death can do is unshackle us from these dreadful bodies and free our spirits to be transported to the very presence of God.

Death can not harm you. It has lost its power.