

A Study On Life And Death



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Life And Death

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First Baptist Church of Harrison, Ohio
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I. THE TEXT

- A. Deut. 30:16-20 - (19) *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. Moses is instructing the people of Israel to ...
 - 1. Walk in God's ways, 16
 - 2. Keep God's commandments, 16
 - 3. To not turn their hearts away from God to other gods, 17
 - 4. Be sure to hear God, 17
 - 5. They will perish if they neglect God's instructions, 18
- C. Moses sets before them life and death, blessing and cursing, 19
 - 1. Life and death have been set before each one of us today.
 - 2. Life is a delegate thing.
- D. We have all been weighed in the balance and been found wanting, Dan. 5:1-2
 - 1. God to Belshazzar after he had made a great feast and mocked the name of God
 - 2. He saw the handwriting on the wall, Dan. 5:4-6
 - 3. He called for the astrologers, soothsayers, and Chaldeans to give him an answer to the writing on the wall.
 - 4. The message was bad news. The answer was (Dan. 5:27-28) "Thou art weighed in the balances, and art found wanting. Thy kingdom is divided, and given to the Medes and Persians."
 - 5. Rom. 9:31 *But Israel, which followed after the law of righteousness, hath not attained to the law of righteousness.*
 - 6. Rom. 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- E. The Brevity of Life
 - 1. James 4:14 *Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.*
 - 2. Job said in Job 7:6 *My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle, and are spent without hope.*
- F. The Hopelessness of Life
 - 1. Eccl 1:2 *Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; all is vanity.*
 - 2. Eccl 1:14 *I have seen all the works that are done under the sun; and, behold, all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*
 - 3. Eccl 2:17 *Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun is grievous unto me: for all is vanity and vexation of spirit.*
 - 4. Eccl 3:19 *For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so*

that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity.

5. Eccl 12:8 *Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher; all is vanity.*

G. What Is Life?

1. When we look at life without God, we find that everything we do is vanity. It accomplishes no spiritual good, produces no spiritual value, does not contribute anything to God or his salvation. It is all vanity.
2. John 6:63 *It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life.*
3. Rom. 8:8 *So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God.*
4. Even though a person may enjoy all the pleasures of life, that is also vanity.
 - a. Eccles. 2:1-11

H. What Is Life?

1. Read also Eccles. 12:15, 22, 23

I. What Is The Worth of Life?

1. The laborer is worthy of his hire, Luke 10:7 *And in the same house remain, eating and drinking such things as they give: for the labourer is worthy of his hire. Go not from house to house. ... and the laborer of his reward: 1 Tim. 5:18 *For the scripture saith, Thou shalt not muzzle the ox that treadeth out the corn. And, The labourer [is] worthy of his reward.* These are spiritual labors.*
2. They are worthy who suffer shame for his name. Acts 5:41 *And they departed from the presence of the council, rejoicing that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name.*
3. John 3:15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*
 - a. Only eternal life has worth.
 - b. There is only vanity in human life. It begins and ends, a vicious cycle of life.
 - c. Eternal life is forever.
 - d. You can have eternal life only through faith in Jesus Christ.

II. WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

2-10-2013

A. Three Questions To Ask

1. Where did I come from?
 - a. Gen 1:27 *So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them.*
 - b. Isa 49:5 *And now, saith the LORD that formed me from the womb to be his servant, to bring Jacob again to him, Though Israel be not gathered, yet shall I be glorious in the eyes of the LORD, and my God shall be my strength.*
 - c. Job 10:8 *Thine hands have made me and fashioned me together round about; yet thou dost destroy me.*
 - d. Psalm 119:73 JOD. *Thy hands have made me and fashioned me: give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.*
 - e. Job 38:3 *Gird up now thy loins like a man; for I will demand of thee, and answer thou me.*
 - f. We did not evolve from something that was already here. God created the universe *ex nihilo*, out of nothing.
 - g. God created Adam and Eve and told them to multiply: Gen. 1:28 *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*
 - h. If we evolved from lower life, then no one is responsible before God. Man is responsible only to man, and we can pretty much make up our own laws and determine within our own sinful soul what is right and what is wrong.
 - i. But if we are created by a holy God, then we are responsible to him, and it is evident that we have sinned against him and need his salvation, a salvation that only he can supply. Just as he gave human life, he must give eternal life.
2. Why am I here?
 - a. We are here to multiply to fill the earth with people: population – Gen 1:28 *And God blessed them, and God said unto them, Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth . . .* – Isaac said to his son, Jacob: Gen 28:3 *And God Almighty bless thee, and make thee fruitful, and multiply thee, that thou mayest be a multitude of people;*
 - b. We are here to subdue the earth – *and subdue it: and have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over every living thing that moveth upon the earth.*
 - c. We are here to understand that every man will be judged – Rom. 2:6 *Who will render to every man according to his deeds:*
 - d. We are encouraged to be married to one spouse – 1 Cor. 7:2 *Nevertheless, to avoid fornication, let every man have his own wife, and let every woman have her own husband.*
 - e. We are here to give an answer of our hope – 1 Peter 3:15 *But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts: and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear:*

- f. We are here to present our bodies wholly unto the lord –
 - (1) Rom. 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.*
 - (2) 1 Sam. 7:9 *And Samuel took a sucking lamb, and offered [it for] a burnt offering wholly unto the LORD: and Samuel cried unto the LORD for Israel; and the LORD heard him.*
 - g. We are here to publish God's word – Notice the man of the tombs in Mark 5:20 *And he departed, and began to publish in Decapolis how great things Jesus had done for him: and all men did marvel.*
 - h. We are here to support the work of the Lord's churches – 2 Cor 9:7 *Every man according as he purposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver.*
 - i. We are here to listen – James 1:19 *Wherefore, my beloved brethren, let every man be swift to hear, slow to speak, slow to wrath:*
3. Where am I going?
- a. A relevant question – Job 14:14 *If a man die, shall he live [again]? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.*
 - b. The truth of the matter – Matt 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
 - c. Only two places: In the above verse (Matt. 25:46) the word everlasting and the word eternal are both the same word in the Greek, so we have
 - (1) Everlasting punishment –
 - (a) 2 Thess 1:9 *Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*
 - (b) 2 Peter 2:9 *The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished:*
 - (c) Rev 14:11 *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*
 - (d) Rev 21:8 *But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.*
 - (2) Everlasting life –
 - (a) John 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.*
 - (b) Rev 22:5 *And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light: and they shall reign for ever and ever.*
 - (c) John 6:40 *And this is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life: and I will*

raise him up at the last day.

(d) Joh 6:47 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me hath everlasting life.*

d. Conclusion

- (1) You came from God, you are here for a reason, and you have a place to go.
- (2) What is your purpose here? You are here to hear the word of God, to obey the commandments of God, and to believe and trust in his Son, Jesus Christ, and be saved by God's grace.
- (3) If you believe, you will have everlasting life
- (4) If you do not believe (with a complete heart trust) that Jesus came, lived a perfect life, died to pay for your sins on the cross, and resurrected from the dead the third day, then you will have everlasting punishment, or the second death.
- (5) Where is your faith today? Is it in yourself, as humanism preaches; or is it in the only Savior of the world, Jesus Christ?
- (6) Trust him today, and you will receive eternal life.

III. LIFE UNDER THE SUN 2-17-2013

A. Introduction

1. In this message we are going to consider the content of the book of Ecclesiastes, a treatise of King Solomon, king of Israel, which deals with life under the sun.
2. We are going to peruse the book, or look through it scantily, to choose several ideas that Solomon brings to our attention concerning life under the sun.
3. In a life under the sun, God is neglected and even opposed. At the end of the book Solomon will tell us how to remedy the life under the sun.
4. Our text: Eccles. 1:1-3
 - a. Vanity of vanities, the most extreme vanities, the worst vanities, of which there can be none worse, none deeper, none more horrible than these vanities.
 - b. So the question in verse three asks: "What profit hath a man of all his labour which he taketh under the sun?"

B. Wisdom

1. Solomon mentions "wisdom" 25 times in this 12-chapter book.
2. Remember, God gave him much wisdom; but he finds even this wisdom is a vanity under the sun.
3. Eccl 1:13 *And I gave my heart to seek and search out by wisdom concerning all [things] that are done under heaven: this sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith.*
4. Eccl. 2:16 *For [there is] no remembrance of the wise more than of the fool for ever; seeing that which now [is] in the days to come shall all be forgotten. And how dieth the wise [man]? as the fool.*

C. Mirth

1. Vanity of mirth: Eccl 2:1 *I said in mine heart, Go to now, I will prove thee with mirth, therefore enjoy pleasure: and, behold, this also [is] vanity.*
2. What does mirth do? Eccl 2:2 *I said of laughter, [It is] mad: and of mirth, What doeth it?*
3. Fools enjoy mirth. Eccl. 7:4 *The heart of the wise [is] in the house of mourning; but the heart of fools [is] in the house of mirth.*
4. Wasted mirth: Psalm 137:3 *For there they that carried us away captive required of us a song; and they that wasted us [required of us] mirth, [saying], Sing us [one] of the songs of Zion.*

D. Hatred of Life

1. Hatred of life and labor. Eccl. 2:17 *Therefore I hated life; because the work that is wrought under the sun [is] grievous unto me: for all [is] vanity and vexation of spirit. 18 Yea, I hated all my labour which I had taken under the sun: because I should leave it unto the man that shall be after me.*

E. Enjoying Work

1. Enjoyment rather than mirth. Eccl. 2:24 *[There is] nothing better for a man, [than] that he should eat and drink, and [that] he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it [was] from the hand of God.*

F. Seasons of Life

1. Read Eccl. 3:1-10

G. We Cannot Know the Work of God

1. Eccl. 3:11 *He hath made every [thing] beautiful in his time: also he hath set the world in their heart, so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end.*

You may learn the wisdom of the ancients
And know all there is to know,
But with all your knowledge and learning,
Your knowledge of God is low.

You may read the scripts of genius
And parse their ever-deepening flow,
But in them you will only see
The things of earth below.

For God's things are spiritually known
And man can't apprehend,
So all the wisdom in the world
Will come to timeless end.

Where, then, do we have the source
Of heavenly knowledge gained?
It is only through his will revealed
That this knowledge is attained.

-Ronnie Wolfe 2-15-2013

H. Wickedness Everywhere

1. Eccl. 3:16 *And moreover I saw under the sun the place of judgment, [that] wickedness [was] there; and the place of righteousness, [that] iniquity [was] there.*
a. We find wickedness in politics
b. We find wickedness in religion

I. Man and Beast Are Alike

1. Eccl. 3:19-20 *For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other; yea, they have all one breath; so that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. 20 All go unto one place; all are of the dust, and all turn to dust again.*

J. But There Is A Spiritual Difference Between Animal And Human

1. Eccl. 3:21 *Who knoweth the spirit of man that goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast that goeth downward to the earth?*
2. Eccl. 8:8 *[There is] no man that hath power over the spirit to retain the spirit; neither [hath he] power in the day of death: and [there is] no discharge in [that] war; neither shall wickedness deliver those that are given to it.*

3. Eccl 11:5 *As thou knowest not what [is] the way of the spirit, [nor] how the bones [do grow] in the womb of her that is with child: even so thou knowest not the works of God who maketh all.*
- K. Worship Under The Sun
1. Eccl 5:1 *Keep thy foot when thou goest to the house of God, and be more ready to hear, than to give the sacrifice of fools: for they consider not that they do evil.*
- L. Riches
1. Eccl. 5:10 *He that loveth silver shall not be satisfied with silver; nor he that loveth abundance with increase: this [is] also vanity.*
- M. Empty Coming and Going
1. Eccl. 5:15 *As he came forth of his mother's womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.*
 2. Job 1:21 *And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.*
- N. All Go To One Place Under The Sun
1. Eccl. 6:6 *Yea, though he live a thousand years twice [told], yet hath he seen no good: do not all go to one place?*
 2. We know that this means death. All go to death.
- O. A Good Name Is Important Under The Sun
1. Read Eccl. 7:1-6
- P. Consider The Work of God
1. Eccl. 7:13 *Consider the work of God: for who can make [that] straight, which he hath made crooked?*
- Q. Too Wise or Too Wicked Under The Sun
1. Eccl. 7:16-17 *Be not righteous over much; neither make thyself over wise: why shouldst thou destroy thyself? 17 Be not over much wicked, neither be thou foolish: why shouldst thou die before thy time?*
- R. There Is None Just Under The Sun
1. Eccl. 7:20 *For [there is] not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.*
- S. Remember Good and Evil Will Be Rewarded
1. Eccl. 8:12-13 *Though a sinner do evil an hundred times, and his days be prolonged, yet surely I know that it shall be well with them that fear God, which fear before him: 13 But it shall not be well with the wicked, neither shall he prolong his days, which are as a shadow; because he feareth not before God.*
- T. We Cannot Know The Whole of Wisdom Under The Sun
1. Eccl 8:17 *Then I beheld all the work of God, that a man cannot find out the work that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek [it] out, yet he shall not find [it]; yea further; though a wise [man] think to know [it], yet shall he not be able to find [it].*
- U. All Die Under The Sun
1. Read Eccl. 9:1-3
- V. We Know Not The Time Of Our Death

1. Eccl. 9:12 *For man also knoweth not his time: as the fishes that are taken in an evil net, and as the birds that are caught in the snare; so [are] the sons of men snared in an evil time, when it falleth suddenly upon them.*

W. Money Is The Answer To Everything Under The Sun

1. Eccl. 10:19 *A feast is made for laughter, and wine maketh merry: but money answereth all [things].*

X. God Will Bring All Things Under The Sun Into Judgment

1. Eccl. 11:9 *Rejoice, O young man, in thy youth; and let thy heart cheer thee in the days of thy youth, and walk in the ways of thine heart, and in the sight of thine eyes: but know thou, that for all these [things] God will bring thee into judgment.*

Y. Remember Your Creator In Your Youth Under The Sun

1. Eccl. 12:1 *Remember now thy Creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them;*

Z. Hear The Conclusion Of The Whole Matter

1. Eccl. 12:13-14 *Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: Fear God, and keep his commandments: for this is the whole duty of man. 14 *For God shall bring every work into judgment, with every secret thing, whether it be good, or whether it be evil.**

IV. THE BEATITUDES, Matthew 5:1-12 2-24-2013

A. Introduction

1. These principles are for all believers in Jesus Christ.
2. These qualities are opposed to the qualities offered by the world.
3. The word “blessed” means happy. So, a Christian can be happy. Actually he can have joy unspeakable and full of glory, 1 Peter 1:8.

B. Submission, Matt. 5:3

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit.
 - a. First, poor means poor in the flesh, or poor “in need.”
 - b. But, since the poor learn more than the rich to trust in God, it began to mean “humility, or submission, dependence”
 - c. To be poor in spirit is to have spiritual poverty in ourselves, human depravity, “bankrupt before God.”
 - d. It means to put more worth upon the treasure of God than on one’s own treasure of humanistic things: Matt 13:44 *Again, the kingdom of heaven is like unto treasure hid in a field; the which when a man hath found, he hideth, and for joy thereof goeth and selleth all that he hath, and buyeth that field.*
 - e. To be poor in spirit means to forsake all of our own things to gain the things of God: Luke 14:33 *So likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple.*
 - f. Charles Spurgeon said, “The way to rise in the kingdom is to sink in ourselves.”
 - g. John the Baptist said it better in John 3:30 *He must increase, but I must decrease.*
 - h. Additional Scriptures:
 - (1) Psalms 34:6 *This poor man cried, and the LORD heard [him], and saved him out of all his troubles.*
 - (2) Isa 57:15 *For thus saith the high and lofty One that inhabiteth eternity, whose name [is] Holy; I dwell in the high and holy [place], with him also [that is] of a contrite and humble spirit, to revive the spirit of the humble, and to revive the heart of the contrite ones.*
 - (3) See also Isaiah 41:17-19; 66:1-2

C. Sorrow, Matt. 5:4

1. Blessed are they that mourn.
2. This is not the mourning for those who have died.
3. This is not the mourning of the sick or those in trouble.
4. This is the sorrow unto repentance
5. 2 Cor. 7:9-10 *Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*
6. Sometimes this brings tears
 - a. Psalm 119:136 *Rivers of waters run down mine eyes, because they keep not thy law.*
 - b. Ezekiel 9:4 *And the LORD said unto him, Go through the midst of the city, through*

the midst of Jerusalem, and set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof.

- c. Phil. 3:18 *For many walk, of whom I have told you often, and now tell you even weeping, that they are the enemies of the cross of Christ:*
 - d. 1 Cor. 5:2 *And ye are puffed up, and have not rather mourned, that he that hath done this deed might be taken away from among you.*
7. God will forgive the sinner
- a. Isa 61:1 *The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon me; because the LORD hath anointed me to preach good tidings unto the meek; he hath sent me to bind up the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound;*
 - b. Isa 40:1 *Comfort ye, comfort ye my people, saith your God.*
 - c. God will comfort those who sorrow.
- D. Self-control, Matt. 5:5
1. Blessed are the meek
 2. The word for “meek” (praus) means “gentle, humble, considerate, courteous.”
 3. That indicates the idea of self-control.
 - a. Matt 11:29 *Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
 - b. 2 Cor 10:1 *Now I Paul myself beseech you by the meekness and gentleness of Christ, who in presence am base among you, but being absent am bold toward you:*
 4. This meekness indicates a gentle attitude toward others, not arrogant or self-righteous.
- E. Security, Matt 5:5
1. Meek shall inherit the earth
 2. It seems that, if the world’s definition of meekness is true, that the meek would not inherit the earth but would simply give it up to the fittest, or the most wicked in the world, those who oppose the righteousness of Jesus Christ.
 3. David said in Psalm 37:1 *Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity.*
 4. Psalm 37:11 *But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace.*
 5. Psalm 37:22 *For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off.*
 6. Psalm 37:34 *Wait on the LORD, and keep his way, and he shall exalt thee to inherit the land: when the wicked are cut off, thou shalt see it.*
 7. 2 Cor 6:10 *As sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing all things.*
- F. Starvation
1. Hunger and thirst after righteousness, Matt. 5:6
 - a. Seek after righteousness
 - (1) Col 3:1 *If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.*

- (2) Luke 1:53 *He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.*
- (3) Our pursuit of life and our avocation is spiritual. We seek to serve the Lord, not the world.
- (4) Matt 6:33 *But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.*
- b. Three aspects of righteousness
 - (1) Legal Righteousness. This is the righteousness of faith spoken of in Romans 10:3 *For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God.*
 - (2) Moral Righteousness. This is righteousness of character and conduct.
 - (a) Matt 5:20 *For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven.*
 - (3) Social righteousness. We should likewise have social righteousness, living before our fellow men as followers of Jesus Christ, being fair and busy in our business: Rom. 12:11 *Not slothful in business; fervent in spirit; serving the Lord;*
- c. Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be blessed.
- G. Read rest of the beatitudes, the blessings of God
 - 1. Matthew 5:7-12
 - 2. This is part of living.
 - 3. But our hunger and thirst after righteousness will never be satisfied in this life. One day it will be fulfilled.
 - a. Isa 11:9 *They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD, as the waters cover the sea.*

V. PERFECT LOVE, Matthew 5:43-48

3/3/2013

A. The Reason For This Teaching, vs 43

1. The Pharisees are the ones who changed the law to fit their own opinions.
2. This is the reason the Lord told his disciples to beware of the leaven of the Pharisees: Matt 16:6 *Then Jesus said unto them, Take heed and beware of the leaven of the Pharisees and of the Sadducees.*
3. First, let us read the Old Testament version of this subject of love:
 - a. Lev. 19:18 *Thou shalt not avenge, nor bear any grudge against the children of thy people, but thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself: I [am] the LORD.*
4. They took away from the word of God. They left out the words “as thyself.”
5. The Pharisees thought they had the authority to choose the people to whom they were to extend their love.
6. They restricted their love only to those people who loved them; that is, they loved only their neighbor, meaning the Jews.
7. They also added “and hate thine enemy.”
8. Gentiles were considered an enemy, so they thought it was right to hate their enemy.
9. A lawyer asked the Lord on one occasion, “Who is my neighbor?”
 - a. Then Jesus tells the story of the Good Samaritan (an enemy of Israel).
 - b. This is found in Luke 10:25-37
 - c. It was the Samaritan, the enemy, who did the right thing, he demonstrates who our neighbor is.
 - d. The lawyer answered the Lord that it was the one who showed mercy who was the neighbor.
 - e. Then Jesus said, “Go, and do thou likewise.” (Vs. 37).
10. There is a perfect hate.
 - a. Psalm 139:22 *I hate them with perfect hatred: I count them mine enemies.*
 - b. The only way we can hate is to hate as God hates.
 - c. These on earth who work against the will of God are not our enemies; they are God’s enemies.
 - d. We bring down in our preaching the judgment of God on these enemies, but we are not to have a personal hatred toward them.
 - e. Paul said in Romans 12:19, “Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord.”

B. The Rationale For This Teaching, vs 44

1. We should love and hate at the same time.
2. We do not hate our enemies to do them harm or to degrade them.
3. We hate them only as God hates all workers of iniquity.
4. Psalm 7:11 *God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry [with the wicked] every day.*
5. We are to love them to the extent that we want to see them repent and believe in Jesus Christ.
6. Our love, according to the story of the Good Samaritan, shows us that we are to love, not merely in feeling, but also in action.
7. Anyone who is a fellow human being is our neighbor, especially those who are in need.
8. Here is the rationale for our love to our neighbor and our enemy.

- a. First, we are to bless them.
 - (1) Prov. 11:11 *By the blessing of the upright the city is exalted: but it is overthrown by the mouth of the wicked.*
 - b. Second, we are to do good to them.
 - (1) Psalm 34:14 *Depart from evil, and do good; seek peace, and pursue it.*
 - (2) But remember: Luke 6:33 *And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.*
 - (3) Gal. 6:10 *As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all [men], especially unto them who are of the household of faith.*
 - (4) Paul said in Rom. 7:21 *I find then a law, that, when I would do good, evil is present with me.*
 - (5) James 4:17 *Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth [it] not, to him it is sin.*
 - c. Third, we are to pray for them, our enemies.
 - (1) 1 Tim. 2:1 *I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; 2 For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty. 3 For this is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Saviour;*
 - (2) Each one of us has a prayer life that could use a good overhaul.
 - (a) We don't pray enough
 - (b) We don't pray without ceasing
 - (c) We don't pray for the right things.
 - (d) But the Holy Spirit intercedes for us: Rom. 8:26 *Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered.*
 - (e) Someone said that if you pray for someone, you will not lay for him.
- C. The Result Of This Teaching, vs 45-48
- 1. First verse 45: *That ye may be the children of your Father which is in heaven.*
 - a. This simply means that people will know us if we love the way God prescribes and the way God does.
 - b. People will know that we are God's children by our love. 1 John 4:12 *No man hath seen God at any time. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us.*
 - 2. Secondly, we are to manifest our divine nature.
 - a. 2 Peter 1:4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
 - b. We are to love as God loves, and this is how he loves:
 - (1) See verse 45
 - (2) He makes the sun shine on the good and the evil.
 - (3) He sends rain to the just and to the unjust.

3. Third, we must have perfect love.
 - a. Verse 46 says that if we love only those who love us, what reward do we have.
 - b. The word “reward” is the word for “wages.”
 - c. In other words, what will we gain if we love only our friends?
 - d. It takes only a standard love, a common love, a static love to love our friends.
 - e. ... and sometimes we don’t really love our friends; we only say we do.
 - f. But to love an enemy (a person who is not among your close family or friends) is to have a love that comes only from God, a part of our divine nature.
 - g. We go a little farther, more than the publicans do.
 - h. The Lord closes this set of verses with this admonition:
 - (1) Matt 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*
 - (2) We have talked about perfect hate; now we must consider perfect love.
 - (3) This phrase is used only once in the Bible.
 - (4) 1 John 4:18 *There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment. He that feareth is not made perfect in love.*
 - i. We need perfect love, mature love, a love that goes out beyond our little circle of friends.
 - j. Notice 1 Timothy 5:9-10.
 - k. This perfect love will cast out fear.
 - l. Remember, we must love our enemies, but we do not have to love their sin or be a part of their lifestyle.
 - m. And if we rebuke those who sin, this can also be an act of love, knowing that we might deliver them.
 - n. Jude 1:23 *And others save with fear, pulling [them] out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh.*

D. Conclusion

1. Remember that the Lord loved us when we were yet in our sins.
2. Rom. 5:6 *For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly.*
3. We were all ungodly sinners. God could not wait for us to be numbered among his friends before he would die for our sins.
4. Rom. 5:8 *But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*
5. We need to show that same kind of love in our lives.
6. Jesus said in John 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

VI. THE GOLDEN RULE, Matt. 7:12

3-10-2013

A. A Different Way Of Looking At Things

1. Stringed instruments have been in existence since the beginning of time, but they have taken on an evolution from simple to complex and even in different ways of expressing music.
2. In the late 18th and early 19th century, the harpsichord was plucked with fingers or some other object. Then someone came up with the idea that the strings could be hit with a hammer. This was the first ideas that led to the invention of our modern piano.
3. Just a difference in the way the instrument was being played took on a whole new possibility of performance.
4. It is the same with The Golden Rule in Matthew 7:12.
5. Philosophers' expression of this idea looked at negatively.
 - a. Hillil, a famous Jewish Rabbi (about 75 BC) said in his writings, "What is hateful to yourself, do to no other; that is the whole law, and the rest is commentary."
 - b. The Book of Tobit (third century BC) states this: "And what thou thyself hatest, do to no man."
 - c. Confucius said about 500 years BC, "Do not to others what you would not wish done to yourself."
6. These are all good words, but let us notice how the theology of Jesus is different from the philosophy of the human mind.
7. Jesus said, Matt 7:12 *Therefore all things whatsoever ye would that men should do to you, do ye even so to them: for this is the law and the prophets.*
 - a. Philosophers all spoke negatively.
 - b. Jesus spoke positively.
8. Jesus' theology is much greater that the thoughts of human philosophers.

B. Difference In Negative and Positive

1. To be negative toward others as to hurting them is a human trait, and it is covered by our laws of the land.
 - a. We must discipline ourselves not to hurt other people.
 - b. We must discipline ourselves not to steal from others.
 - c. We must discipline ourselves not to offend others.
 - d. We must discipline ourselves not to be prejudiced toward people.
 - e. These we can all do.
 - f. If we do not discipline ourselves in these things, the law will punish us.
 - g. Any man, then, can keep the sayings of the philosophers.
2. But to be positive is not simply a human trait.
 - a. The law does not say that we must DO unto others. It states that we DO NOT do unto others.
 - b. But Jesus said that we are to "do even so to them."
 - c. The only way we can do what Jesus says is to remove our minds from self and place our thoughts on others.
 - d. Phil. 2:4 *Look not every man on his own things, but every man also on the things of others.*

- e. This is not a human but a divine trait.
 - f. We need God's help to do this.
 - g. The divine nature given to us in the new birth allows us to obey the Lord's instruction here.
 - h. 2 Peter 1:4 *Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*
 - i. 2 Cor. 5:17 *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
 - j. This sermon that Jesus is preaching is being delivered to saved, born-again people, not to the lost world.
 - k. This is the way we as believers should live.
- C. This Golden Rule Is Our Standard For Living
1. Jesus says that "this is the law and the prophets.
 2. "This is the law . . ."
 3. What is law? It is a standard.
 4. A rule is a standard just as the law is a standard.
 5. This is the rule by which we all as believers are to measure our lives. This is why this is called The Golden Rule. By this rule we measure our motives and practices.
 6. Illustration:
 - a. Take a piece of paper and draw the straightest line you can on it.
 - b. Then get a ruler and lay the ruler down on top of your line and trace a straight line across the edge of the ruler.
 - c. Then compare the line made by the ruler with the line that you made without it.
 - d. Notice you can never get your own line to be as straight as the line made by the ruler.
 7. Our lives are like that with God.
 8. We can never live the perfect life that God has written in his book, the Bible.
 9. But we must constantly measure our lives with his rule and adjust our lives accordingly.
 10. Only the righteousness of Jesus Christ can meet the standards of God's rule.
 11. By believing in Jesus Christ, his death, burial, and resurrection, you can be made righteous in God's sight.
 12. Notice these scriptures:
 - a. Titus 3:5 *Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;*
 - b. 2 Cor 5:21 *For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*

VII. CHURCH LIFE

3/17/2013

A. Who Is In the Church?

1. Only those who are saved – Acts 2:41 *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
2. Only those who are baptized – Acts 2:41 *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
3. Only those who are added – Acts 2:41 *Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls.*
4. Only those who are faithful
 - a. Romans 16:17 *Now I beseech you, brethren, mark them which cause divisions and offences contrary to the doctrine which ye have learned; and avoid them.*
 - b. Phil. 3:17 *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.*

B. What Should Be Our Conduct In Church?

1. We should behave ourselves – 1 Tim. 3:15 *But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
 - a. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not for entertainment purposes
 - b. The church of the Lord Jesus Christ is not for advertising business.
2. We should worship
 - a. By learning the truth
3. We should keep the ordinances – baptism & Lord’s Supper – “Keep the ordinances” (1 Cor. 11:2)
4. We should fellowship
 - a. 1 John 1:7 *But if we walk in the light, as he is in the light, we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin.*
 - b. Romans 16:16 *Salute one another with an holy kiss. The churches of Christ salute you. (See also 1 Cor. 16:20; 2 Cor. 13:12; 1 Thess. 5:26)*
5. We should sing in the church
 - a. Jesus sang in the church
 - (1) Heb 2:12 *Saying, I will declare thy name unto my brethren, in the midst of the church will I sing praise unto thee.*
 - (2) Matt 26:30 *And when they had sung an hymn, they went out into the mount of Olives.*
 - b. We are to sing in the church
 - (1) Eph 5:19 *Speaking to yourselves in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord;*
 - (2) Col 3:16 *Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.*
 - (3) 1 Cor. 14:15 *What is it then? I will pray with the spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: I will sing with the spirit, and I will sing with the understanding also.*

- c. We should be in unity in the church
 - (1) Acts 1:14 *These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brethren.*
 - (2) Acts 2:1 *And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all with one accord in one place.*
 - (3) Acts 2:46 *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*
 - (4) Acts 15:25 *It seemed good unto us, being assembled with one accord, to send chosen men unto you with our beloved Barnabas and Paul,*
 - d. So, then, there should be no divisions among us
 - (1) 1 Cor 1:10 *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
 - (2) 1 Cor 11:19 *For there must be also heresies among you, that they which are approved may be made manifest among you.*
 - (3) So, Paul is not speaking of agreeing in everything among ourselves but agreeing and being in one accord concerning the truth of God's word, that there be no heresies in the church.
 - e. We here at our church deal with these things in the following ways.
 - (1) If a member has shown little or no interest in the church for six months to a year, that member is put on an Inactive Membership List, which means that the person has no right to take the Lord's Supper or to be an active part of any business meetings.
 - (2) If a member sins a great sin that brings reproach on the church and will not ask the church forgiveness, that member may be excluded from the membership of the church but may regain membership by coming before the church and asking forgiveness and showing that in their lives.
 - (3) If a member requests that his name be taken from this church's membership, this will be accommodated by the church.
 - (4) If a member requests a letter from this church to a church of like faith and order, a letter will be granted as a recommendation to the other church to receive the member into their fellowship.
 - (5) Also, if a member is known to have joined the membership of a church that is not in agreement with faith and practice of this church, that member will also be removed from membership.
 - (6) Of course, a member will be removed from the membership list in the case of the death of that member.
- C. What Is The Makeup Of The Church?
- 1. We know that it is a local assembly, not a universal church.
 - a. God judges those who are "out of" the church, and some members should be excluded from the membership of a local church.
 - b. 1 Cor 12:27 *Now ye are the body of Christ, and members in particular.*

- (1) The Body of Christ is not all believers; it is a local church of baptized believers covenanted together to carry out the commission of Christ.
 2. We know that the local churches of the Lord are indwelt with the Holy Spirit in a special way.
 - a. 1 Cor 3:16 *Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you?*
 - b. 2 Cor 6:16 *And what agreement hath the temple of God with idols? for ye are the temple of the living God; as God hath said, I will dwell in them, and walk in them; and I will be their God, and they shall be my people.*
 - c. 1 Cor 5:13 *But them that are without God judgeth. Therefore put away from among yourselves that wicked person.*
 3. To be a member of a church of the Lord Jesus Christ is a great privilege, not a right.
 - a. We have already noticed that only those who are saved, only those who are scripturally baptized, and all those who are faithful can be members of the churches of the Lord.
 - b. We may forfeit this right through our negligent and sinful life.
 - (1) For unfaithfulness
 - (2) For heresy
 - (3) For sin that reproaches the church
- D. What Is The Future Of The Churches Of The Lord?
1. Matt 16:18 *And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.*
 2. Matt 28:18-20 *And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth. 19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: 20 Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen.*
- E. What Is The Purpose Of The Church?
1. In the same passage in Matt. 28:18-20 above, we see the church's main purpose:
 - a. Teach all nations – make disciples
 - b. Baptize all nations – picture the Lord's death, burial, and resurrection
 - c. Teach all nations – Instruct in whatever Jesus has commanded within the auspices of the local church. 2 Tim. 3:16 *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
- F. Conclusion (because we are not going into every detailed point about the local church).
1. In the New Testament, it seems that everyone who trusted the Lord, believed in his death, burial, and resurrection, was baptized and joined with a local church without exception.
 2. Today some people profess to know the Lord, but they never join with a local church. Being saved and church membership are closely related, both in time and in importance.
 3. So, first, have you trust the Lord as your Savior?

4. Next, have you joined with a local New Testament church in order to give glory to God in your service for him?

VIII. THE SECOND LIFE

3-31-2013

A. Meaning Of The Second Life

1. Being born again – John 3:3ff
2. Having the divine nature – 2 Peter 1:4
3. Being a new creation – 2 Cor. 5:17 – Gal. 6:15
4. Quickened – Psalm 119:50, 93; Eph. 2:1, 5; Col. 2:13; 1 Peter 3:18
5. Raised – Eph. 2:6
6. Delivered from darkness to light – John 12:46; Acts 26:18

B. Manner Of the Second Life

1. We were all dead in our sins – Eph. 2:1, 5
 - a. No dead person can resurrect himself or bring himself to new life.
 - b. Lazarus was dead, but there was nothing he could do to bring himself back to physical life.
 - c. But when Jesus said, “Lazarus, come forth,” he came forth from the dead.
 - d. It took the word of Jesus to resurrect him.
 - e. Since we are dead in our trespasses and sins, we cannot resurrect ourselves from that condition through any work of our own, for all of our righteousnesses are as filthy rags to God (Isaiah 64:6).
2. But God said (as an example from Israel) LIVE!
 - a. Ezekiel 16:6-14
 - b. This is what God has done for us.
 - c. John 5:25
 - d. John 14:19
 - e. Acts 17:28
 - f. Rom. 1:17
 - g. 2Co 4:11

C. Miracle Of The Second Life

1. “It Took A Miracle”

*It took a miracle to put the stars in place.
It took a miracle to hang the world in space.
But when he saved my, cleansed and made me whole;
It took a miracle of love and grace.*

2. No person will repent and believe in Christ on his own, because he does not have the desire nor the ability to do so.
3. John 5:40 – *Ye will not come to me ...*
4. Luke 10:20 – *Rejoice not that the spirits are subject to you, but that your names are written in heaven.*
5. John 6:65 *And he said, Therefore said I unto you, that no man can come unto me, except it were given unto him of my Father.*

D. Method Of the Second Life

1. The Second Life Is Planned
 - a. Our names written down before foundation of the world – Rev. 13:8; 17:8
 - b. We were chosen before the foundation of the world – Eph. 1:4
 - c. We were foreknown and predestinated – Romans 8:29-30
2. The Second Life Is Planted
 - a. 1 John 5:11
 - b. John 3:3, 7
 - c. Eph 2:8-10
 - d. John 10:28
 - e. Ezekiel 36:26
3. The Second Life Is Progressive
 - a. We are born again and receive new life by a miracle from God.
 - b. Grace activates the Spirit of God to translate us into God's kingdom – Col. 1:13
 - c. Romans 6 :4
 - d. 1 Peter 2:2; 2 Peter 3:18
4. The Second Life Is Permanent
 - a. Romans 8:1
 - b. Romans 8:32
 - c. John 3:36
 - d. 1 John 3:1-2
 - e. John 6:40, 44, 54 “raise him up”
 - f. John 3:16

IX. THE PROBLEMS OF LIFE

4/7/2013 PM

- A. Text: John 16:33 *These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.*
- B. Illustration:
1. A one-hundred-foot-deep fog hangs over about seven city blocks. The water involved in that fog, if condensed, could be placed in an 8-ounce glass of water. One small glass of water, divided into about 60 billion tiny droplets, makes up this weary fog. That's how our problems are: the tiniest cupful of troubles can be spread out over many areas of our lives and for many days, months, or even years like a fog over our heads. Let's condense those problems and put them back into the glass so they will not be so threatening to our lives.
- C. That Ye Might Have Peace - John 16:33
1. Psalm 4:8 *I will both lay me down in peace, and sleep: for thou, LORD, only makest me dwell in safety.*
 2. Psalm 28:3 *Draw me not away with the wicked, and with the workers of iniquity, which speak peace to their neighbours, but mischief [is] in their hearts.*
 3. Psalm 37:37 *Mark the perfect [man], and behold the upright: for the end of [that] man [is] peace.*
 4. Psalm 119:165 *Great peace have they which love thy law: and nothing shall offend them.*
 5. John 14:27 *Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.*
 6. Rom 5:1 *Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ:*
 7. Rom 8:6 *For to be carnally minded [is] death; but to be spiritually minded [is] life and peace.*
 8. Col 3:15 *And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful.*
- D. Ye Shall Have Tribulation, John 16:33
1. Some cannot endure tribulation – Matt 13:21 *Yet hath he not root in himself, but dureth for a while: for when tribulation or persecution ariseth because of the word, by and by he is offended.*
 2. We must have tribulation -- Acts 14:22 *Confirming the souls of the disciples, [and] exhorting them to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.*
 3. Tribulation cannot separate us from the love of Christ – Rom. 8:35 *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? [shall] tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?*
 4. Christ will comfort us in our tribulation – 2 Cor. 1:4 *Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.*
- E. Be Of Good Cheer, John 16:33
1. We can be cheerful in tribulation – Rom. 5:3 *And not only [so], but we glory in*

- tribulations also: knowing that tribulation worketh patience;*
2. Eph 3:13 *Wherefore I desire that ye faint not at my tribulations for you, which is your glory.*
 3. 2Th 1:4 *So that we ourselves glory in you in the churches of God for your patience and faith in all your persecutions and tribulations that ye endure:*
- F. I Have Overcome The World, John 16:33
1. 1 John 4:4 *Ye are of God, little children, and have overcome them: because greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world.*
 2. Rev 17:14 *These shall make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb shall overcome them: for he is Lord of lords, and King of kings: and they that are with him are called, and chosen, and faithful.*

The birds sing in the morning long before the daylight comes. Why do they do this? I don't really know, but maybe it is because they know that it won't be long until the daylight will be rising in the eastern sky. Maybe we should realize in our own minds that, though it is a dark day here on earth, it won't be long until our daylight will be shining, and we will be forever in heaven with the Lord. This should dispel our anxieties about the troubles of this world. Christ has overcome the world, so we have a hiding place, a high priest, a king, a Savior, a Lord who can and will deliver us from the evils of this world. Don't despair. Troubles are here, but our redemption is nearer than when we first believed (Rom. 13:11).

3. Isa 35:4 *Say to them that are of a fearful heart, Be strong, fear not: behold, your God will come with vengeance, even God with a recompence; he will come and save you.*

Some say that life is like a roller coaster, but it really is not. On a roller coaster, the downs are more fun than the ups. Life is more like standing in line to get on the roller coaster, which is the real thrill. Some person stands in line to ride a really big roller coaster, waiting as much as two or three hours. Someone asked later, "Was it worth it?" The person says, "Yes, it was." We are now waiting for the most exciting time in our life, the time when we will be with the Lord, serving and praising him forever. The waiting is the most stressful time, but the excitement comes later. **WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?** Get in line. Repent of your sins today and turn to Jesus Christ, believe he died on the cross for you, paid your sin debt, shedding his precious blood for you. Then you will be waiting for the real excitement. Be of good cheer. He has overcome the world. I have read the back of the book, and he wins.

4. But you need a ticket to get on the roller coaster.
5. The ticket is not free. It costs Jesus Christ a great price. Both 1 Cor. 6:20 and 1 Cor. 7:23 tells that we are bought with a price.
6. 1 Peter 1:18-19 says, *Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by*

tradition from your fathers; 19 But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot:

7. Do you have a ticket to go to Heaven? Faith in the finished work of Jesus Christ gives you a free ticket. It costs you nothing, though it cost God the perfect life, the perfect death, and the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ.

X. ETERNAL LIFE – Our Text For This Series (Deut. 30:16-20) **4-14-2013 PM**

A. Life And Death

1. We all live until we die. That is, as they say, a given.
2. But, then, wise Solomon says that all is vanity under the sun.
3. Earthly, human life is a precious life, for it is given to us from God.
 - a. Acts 17:25, 28 *Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things; . . . 28 For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring.*
4. Human life is in a sense death.
5. Those who live life without Christ are living death.
 - a. 1Tim. 5:6 *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*
6. But those who live in Christ shall live forever
 - a. John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
7. Death is a horrible thing to those who do not believe in Christ.
 - a. John 8:24 *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am [he], ye shall die in your sins.*
 - b. Rom. 8:13 *For if ye live after the flesh, ye shall die: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live.*

B. Eternal Life

1. Matt 19:16-22
 - a. This is the rich man who could not believe, because his love was in his money, not in Christ.
2. Eternal life comes by way of repentance.
 - a. John the Baptist said in Matt 3:2 ... *Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.*
 - b. Jesus said in Luke 13:3 *I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish.*
 - c. Luke 15:10 *Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth.*
3. Eternal life comes by way of faith.
 - a. John the Baptist said in Mark 1:15 . . . *The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel.*
 - b. Our hearts are purified by faith – Acts 15:9 *And put no difference between us [the Jews] and them [the Gentiles], purifying their hearts by faith.*
4. Eternal life is forever
 - a. John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
5. Eternal life is to be lived in the world
 - a. Rom. 1:17 *For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as*

it is written, The just shall live by faith.

- b. Phil. 2:15 *That ye may be blameless and harmless, the sons of God, without rebuke, in the midst of a crooked and perverse nation, among whom ye shine as lights in the world;*
 - c. Rom. 12:1 *I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, [which is] your reasonable service.*
 - d. Matt 5:48 *Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect.*
6. Eternal life is for now
 - a. 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*
 7. Eternal life is forever
 - a. Mt 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*
 - b. John 6:51 *I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.*
 8. Eternal life is for everyone who comes to and believes in Christ.
 - a. Matt 11:28 *Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.*
 - b. Rev 21:6 *And he said unto me, It is done. I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely.*
 9. Eternal life continues in Heaven and on earth.
 - a. Matt 5:12 *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*
 - b. 1 Thess. 4:16-17 *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: 17 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.*
 - c. Rev. 19:11-16
- C. Do You Have Eternal Life?
1. Heb. 3:7-8 *Wherefore (as the Holy Ghost saith, To day if ye will hear his voice, 8 Harden not your hearts, as in the provocation, in the day of temptation in the wilderness:*
 2. Heb.4:1-3 *Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into his rest, any of you should seem to come short of it. 2 For unto us was the gospel preached, as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it. 3 For we which have believed do enter into rest, as he said, As I have sworn in my wrath, if they shall enter into my rest: although the works were finished from the foundation of the world.*

XI. DEATH AND DYING

4-21-2013

A. Definition of Death - Heb 9:27

1. The Bible gives no definition of death. From an earthly point of view, everyone knows about death; because one does not have to live very many years until he will come face to face with death around him and eventually the reality of his own death. Everyone knows that.
2. However, the Bible does describe death.
3. Medicine defines death in different ways, and there exists disagreements on definitions of death. Many think that death is the end of everything and that the person who dies does not exist after death.
4. One medical dictionary defines death this way: "Death is defined as the cessation of all vital functions of the body including the heartbeat, brain activity (including the brain stem), and breathing."
5. I searched in the Bible the phrase "death is," and I found that it is found five times in the Bible, two times in the Old Testament, and three times in the New Testament.
6. But not one of them gives a definition of death.
7. The Bible, however, does deal with death in very definite ways.

B. Descriptions of Death

1. The shadow of death.
 - a. This phrase is used 19 times in the Bible.
 - b. Nine times it is used in the book of Job.
 - (1) Job 3:5 *Let darkness and the shadow of death stain it; let a cloud dwell upon it; let the blackness of the day terrify it.* The "it" in this verse speaks of Job's day that he was born.
 - (2) Job 38:17 *Have the gates of death been opened unto thee? or hast thou seen the doors of the shadow of death?*
 - c. Four times this phrase is used in the book of Psalms
 - (1) The most famous is in Ps 23:4 *Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me.*
 - d. Once it is used in the book of Isaiah and is the prophecy that is quoted in the New Testament
 - (1) Isaiah 9:2 *The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.*
 - (2) See Matt. 4:16; Luke 1:79
2. No remembrance
 - a. Psalm 6:5 *For in death there is no remembrance of thee: in the grave who shall give thee thanks?*
 - b. That is, we do not remember in our physical brains the things of the earth, but rather we will be in a completely different world where earthly things have passed away and spiritual things prevail.
3. Solomon in the book of Ecclesiastes describes death in an interesting way.
 - a. Eccl. 12:5 *Also when they shall be afraid of that which is high, and fears shall be*

in the way, and the almond tree shall flourish, and the grasshopper shall be a burden, and desire shall fail: because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:

- b. He describes death as our going to our “long home.”
 - c. The word “long” here from the Hebrew is also translated “eternal.”
 - d. So, at death a person goes to a place that will last forever. There is no turning back from this place, and there is nowhere else to go. You might say “The buck stops here.”
 - e. The word “home” in this verse refers to a place where people of the same household live, a place where people are related such as in a family where people are blood related.
 - f. If you go to heaven when you die, you will go to be with those who are related to you by the blood of Jesus Christ.
 - g. If you die and go to hell, then you will go to be with those who are related to you through the blood of Adam.
 - h. And in this situation, family relationships are very important.
 - i. Notice 1Cor 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.*
- C. Destiny of Death
- 1. Destiny of the lost
 - a. Prov. 14:12 *There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.*
 - b. Prov. 16:25 *There is a way that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof [are] the ways of death.*
 - c. John 8:21 *Then said Jesus again unto them, I go my way, and ye shall seek me, and shall die in your sins: whither I go, ye cannot come.*
 - d. John 8:24 *I said therefore unto you, that ye shall die in your sins: for if ye believe not that I am he, ye shall die in your sins.*
 - e. Heb 9:27 *And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:*
 - 2. Destiny of the saved
 - a. Eternal life
 - (1) Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - (2) John 3:15 *That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*
 - b. Present with the Lord
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:6-8 *Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 7 (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) 8 We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*
 - (2) 1 Thess 4:17 *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.*

- c. Freed from sin
 - (1) Rom. 6:7 *For he that is dead is freed from sin.*
 - d. Three times delivered
 - (1) 2 Cor 1:10 *Who delivered us from so great a death, and doth deliver: in whom we trust that he will yet deliver us;*
 - e. To an inheritance
 - (1) 1 Peter 1:3-5 *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, 4 To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, 5 Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.*
 - (2) Rev. 22:1-5
- D. Conclusion
- 1. Spiritual death
 - a. Of course, there is a spiritual death, and every unsaved person lives in that spiritual death.
 - b. 1 John 3:14 *We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.*
 - c. 1 Tim. 5:6 *But she that liveth in pleasure is dead while she liveth.*
 - d. Rom. 6:23 *For the wages of sin is death; ...*
 - 2. Spiritual life
 - a. Rom. 6:23 *... but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*
 - b. 2 Cor 6:2 *(For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)*

XII. A FACE-TO-FACE LOOK AT DEATH, John 11:32-44

A. The If of Lazarus' Death, 32

1. "If thou hadst been here, my brother had not died."
2. This was probably correct, because nothing ever died in the presence of Jesus.
3. Jesus never sat by anyone while they died.
4. Jesus never waited in a hospital room until someone died.
5. Jesus never went into a house and waited with a family while a loved one died.
6. No one ever died in his presence.
7. He says, in fact, in this chapter "I am the resurrection, and the life ..." vs 25
8. Jesus, then, had to leave so that Lazarus could die.

B. The Hurt of Lazarus' Death, 33-36

1. Jesus saw Mary weeping because of her brother's death.
2. The Jews were also weeping, some for sincere hurt, and others, no doubt, because they were mourners hired to do so.
3. Jesus groaned and was troubled in his spirit, because he knew Mary and the Jews did not understand what he was telling them. He wanted them to realize who he was and what his power was.
4. So, then, in verse 35 the Bible says, "Jesus wept."
5. The Jews said, "Behold how he loved him." But the Jews were not correct in their expression. Certainly the Lord did love Lazarus, but he was not weeping because he loved him. The only reason he would weep is if Lazarus were dead and would never come back; but Jesus knew that he had come to wake him out of sleep (death).

C. The Question About Jesus, 37-38

1. The Jews questioned whether Jesus could have healed Lazarus of his illness, as he had done so many times before, that he might not die.
2. When they expressed this, Jesus again groaned because of their lack of faith in him.
3. They knew he could heal, but they did not know that he could raise the dead.
4. In our own day people want Jesus to make everything perfect, but they do not want him to, nor do they know he can, resurrect the dead soul to new life.

D. The Presence at the Grave, 39

1. "Take away the stone"
2. This was the same as asking to have some exhumed from a grave. This is not easily accepted and ordered.
3. In those days no embalming was done, so by this time, four days, the body would already be decaying.
4. No one complained about smelling any decaying flesh, so Jesus may very well have done something to preserve the body even while it was dead.
5. When Jesus died, as you now, there was no corruption on his body. In the book of Acts Luke tells us three times that Jesus' body would not see corruption.
 - a. *Ac 2:27 Because thou wilt not leave my soul in hell, neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. See also 2:31, 13:35*
6. So much was corruption expected that Mary said, "by now he stinketh: for he hath been dead four days."

E. The Glory of God, 40

1. The Lord in this verse reminded Mary that he had already told her that this was done for the glory of God, vs. 4
2. They had already seen and knew of the glory of God in healing, but now they will see with their own eyes the resurrection from the dead.

F. The Prayer of the Savior, 41-42

1. After the stone was rolled away from the cave, Jesus lifted up his eyes and prayed.
2. First he said, "Father, I thank thee that thou hast heard me."
3. He mentioned, further, that God hears him always.
4. He prayed aloud so that the people standing by would realize that he depended upon God for what he was going to do.
5. The purpose was so that they might believe on him.
6. The whole purpose of the book of John is that people might believe (John 20:31).

G. The Commands of the Savior, 43-44

1. First command: "Lazarus, come forth."
 - a. By his word the worlds were spoken into being.
 - b. By his word the world was put into an orderly existence.
 - c. By his word men come to know him as Savior
 - (1) John 5:24 *Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, hath everlasting life, and shall not come into condemnation; but is passed from death unto life.*
 - (2) Romans 10:17 *So then faith [cometh] by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*
 - (3) 1 Peter 2:9 *But ye [are] a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:*
 - d. Has God called you out of your darkness, out of your sin, out of your death, and saved you by his grace?
2. Second command: "Loose him, and let him go."
 - a. This is glorious freedom
 - b. John 8:36 *If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.*
 - c. 1 Peter 2:16 *As free, and not using [your] liberty for a cloke of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.*
3. Do you need to be raised from the dead?
 - a. Eph 2:1 *And you [hath he quickened], who were dead in trespasses and sins;*
 - b. Salvation is not what you do. It is what God does for you.
 - c. Lazarus could not raise himself from the dead; neither can you raise yourself from spiritual death in sin.
 - d. Notice finally: Eph 2:5 *Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;)*
 - e. With: Eph. 2:8-9 *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: 9 Not of works, lest any man should boast.*
 - f. This is to the glory of God.

XIII. THE DEATH OF AN UNBELIEVER, Luke 16:19-31

A. Hell Is An Actual Place

1. The Reality of Hell

- a. We are speaking of Hell, because it seems to be the predominant message in this story.
- b. One recent survey revealed that 35% of Baptists, 54% of Presbyterians, 58% of Methodists, and 60% of Episcopalians do not believe in a literal hell.
- c. 71% of those attending the eight (8) leading seminaries in the United States do not believe in either Heaven or Hell.
- d. But the word of God says there is a literal Hell.
 - (1) Psalm 9:17 *The wicked shall be turned into hell, [and] all the nations that forget God.*
 - (2) Luke 12:5 *But I will forewarn you whom ye shall fear: Fear him, which after he hath killed hath power to cast into hell; yea, I say unto you, Fear him.*
 - (3) Also in our text

2. The Residents of Hell

- a. Satan and his angels – Matt 25:41 *Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:*
- b. The wicked and nations that forget God – Psalm 9:17 *The wicked shall be turned into hell, [and] all the nations that forget God.*
- c. Those who do not know God – 2 Thess. 1:8-9 *In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: 9 Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;*
- d. Those who cry “Lord, Lord.” – Matt. 7:21-23 *Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven. 22 Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works? 23 And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.*
- e. This means wicked, ungodly people, religious people, moral people, decent people, friends, relatives, family members, anyone who is not saved.
- f. These are lost people: Ps 7:11 *God judgeth the righteous, and God is angry with the wicked every day.*

B. Hell Is An Awful Place

1. Because of Damnation

- a. Sinners are condemned already – John 3:18 *He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.*
- b. 2 Thess 2:12 *That they all might be damned who believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness.*
- c. Rev. 20:13-15 *And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell*

delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. 14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. 15 And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

2. Because of Duration

- a. Matt. 18:8 and Matt. 25:41 speak of “everlasting fire.”
- b. Rev. 14:11 *And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever: and they have no rest day nor night, who worship the beast and his image, and whosoever receiveth the mark of his name.*
- c. Mark 9:43 *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:*
- d. Luke 16:24 *And he cried and said, Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water, and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.*

C. Hell Is An Avoidable Place

1. The Pathway To Avoiding Hell - Enter into Life

- a. Mark 9:43 *And if thy hand offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter into life maimed, than having two hands to go into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:*
- b. Mark 9:45 *And if thy foot offend thee, cut it off: it is better for thee to enter halt into life, than having two feet to be cast into hell, into the fire that never shall be quenched:*
- c. Mark 9:47 *And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire:*
- d. Know the way – John 14:6
- e. Know your condition – Romans 3:10, 23; Rom. 5:12
- f. Know your penalty for sin – Rom. 6:23
- g. Know God’s remedy for sin – Romans 5:6-9
- h. Turn from your sin – Luke 13:3
- i. Confess and believe in Jesus Christ – Romans 10:9-10, 13
- j. This is all by grace through faith – Eph. 2:8-9; Acts 16:31
- k. Only believe – Acts 16:31

2. The Price of Avoiding Hell

- a. It cost Jesus his life and his precious blood –
 - (1) 2 Cor. 5:21 *For he hath made him [to be] sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him.*
 - (2) 1 Cor. 7:23 *Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men.*
 - (3) Eph 1:7 *In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;*
- b. It costs you nothing if you will believe
 - (1) Rev. 22:17 *And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth*

say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely.

(2) *Isa 55:1 Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

XIV. THE DEATH OF A BELIEVER, Acts 6:8 - 8:3

5/12/2013 PM

A. The Scriptures, 6:8 - 7:50

1. Stephen was put on trial, 6:8-15
 - a. He was tried due to the fact that he did wonders and miracles among the people.
 - b. During the trial, many lies were told about Stephen.
 - (1) They disputed with Stephen, 9
 - (2) They were not able to resist his wisdom, 10
 - (3) They suborned men, or hired liars, 11
 - (4) They stirred up the people and brought him to the council, 12
 - (5) They set up false witnesses, 13
 - (6) They noticed that his face shown like the face of an angel.
2. Stephen preached the scriptures, the whole story of Israel from Abraham down to his own day.
 - a. He begins with Abraham, 7:1-8
 - b. He then speaks of Joseph and the Patriarchs, 9-19
 - c. He speaks then of Moses and the deliverance of Israel from Egypt, 20-36
 - d. He then applies the leader Moses to a prophet that should come, Christ, 37
 - e. He speaks of the rejection of Moses as God's leader and Israel's going into captivity to Babylon, 38-43.
 - f. He speaks also of the tabernacle that Israel built in the wilderness, a witness of Christ, 44-46
 - g. He speaks then of the temple, which Solomon built, 47-50

B. The Sorrow, 6:51-53

1. These religious leaders are sorrowful as Stephen calls them "stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears." 51
2. He accuses them of resisting the Holy Spirit
 - a. The Holy Spirit spoke through leaders and through the tabernacle and the temple, for that is where God's name had been placed.
3. He accuses them of doing the same as their fathers did, reject Moses and Christ.
4. He accuses them of persecuting the prophets, the very prophets that prophesied of the coming of the Messiah, which is Christ Jesus, the Just One
5. He accuses them of betraying and murdering Jesus, the Messiah, the Just One.
6. Last, he accused them of not keeping the law, not seeing in the law the fulfillment in Christ and believing in him, 53
7. Stephen made them sorrow after a worldly sort, but not after a godly sort.
 - a. *2 Cor. 7: 9-10 Now I rejoice, not that ye were made sorry, but that ye sorrowed to repentance: for ye were made sorry after a godly manner, that ye might receive damage by us in nothing. 10 For godly sorrow worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of: but the sorrow of the world worketh death.*

C. The Stoning, 6:54-60

1. The men on the council were "cut to the heart," meaning they were angry with Stephen for telling them the whole story of Israel but interpreting it to make Jesus the Messiah.
2. But Stephen was full of the Holy Ghost, which he was found to have when he was

- chosen to be one of the men of honest report to serve the church in Acts 6:3. In verse 5 it says “they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost.”
3. Stephen, knowing what is about to happen, no doubt, looked up into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing on the right hand of God. What a sight that must have been!
 4. When he described what he saw to the elders of the council, that he saw the Son of man standing on the right hand of God, they stopped up their ears and ran upon him, vss 56-57.
 5. They threw him out of the city and stoned him, laying their clothes (coats) down at the feet of a man named Saul, which we meet very soon in this book of the Bible.
 6. As Stephen is being stoned, he is talking to God, turning his back completely away from the world, its horrors, its pain, its disappointments, and looking unto Jesus the author and finishing of our faith, 59
 7. He is saying to God, “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” 59
 8. At last he fell to his knees; but before he died, he cried out to God, mimicking the Lord from the cross, and he says, “Lord, lay not this sin to their charge.”
 9. Jesus put it a little differently when he said, “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do.” Luke 23:34
 10. Then he fell asleep, which means that he died.
 11. Fanny Crosby wrote:

Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast,
 There by His love o’ershaded, sweetly my soul shall rest.
 Hark! ’tis the voice of angels, borne in a song to me.
 Over the fields of glory, over the jasper sea.

Refrain

Safe in the arms of Jesus, safe on His gentle breast
 There by His love o’ershaded, sweetly my soul shall rest.

- a. 2 Cor 5:8 *We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*
 - b. Eccles. 12:5 ... *because man goeth to his long home, and the mourners go about the streets:*
 - c. Rev 22:3 *And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him:*
- D. Saul, 8:1-3
1. Now we meet the young man to whom the council entrusted their clothes when they stoned Stephen.
 2. In Acts 8:1, then, we see this man consenting to the death of Stephen.
 3. There was a great persecution against the church that was at Jerusalem, which was the

- only church of Christ upon the face of the earth.
4. Believers were scattered everywhere, but the apostles stayed in Jerusalem.
 5. After the disciples buried Stephen with great lamentation (or crying), Saul began to “make havoc” or to persecute the church by going house to house, asking whether a person were a believer in Christ or was a part of the church at Jerusalem; and if they were, he would take them and put them in prison.
 6. Later this man, Saul, became known as Paul, and this is what he said about himself:
 - a. Acts 22:4 *And I persecuted this way unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women.*
 - b. Acts 26:11 *And I punished them oft in every synagogue, and compelled [them] to blaspheme; and being exceedingly mad against them, I persecuted [them] even unto strange cities.*
 - c. 1 Cor 15:9 *For I am the least of the apostles, that am not meet to be called an apostle, because I persecuted the church of God.*
 - d. Gal 1:13 *For ye have heard of my conversation in time past in the Jews’ religion, how that beyond measure I persecuted the church of God, and wasted it:*
 7. This persecution has kept on, has been active ever since, against the churches of the Lord.
 8. From Nero in the Roman Empire, AD 67, through the great persecutions of Domitian, AD 81, of Trojan, 108 AD, Marcus Aurelius Antoninus, AD 162, Severus, AD 192, Maximum, AD 235, Decius, AD 249, Valerian, AD 257, Aurelian, AD 274, Diocletian, AD 303, Denominational Persecution against those who would not belong to state churches, Nazis in Germany, Muslim killings of Christians for heresy, and government persecution against Christianity, etc.
 9. We can read in the books of martyrdom about men, women, boys, and girls, who were killed for their faith in Christ.
 10. We can read Baptist history and the many who were killed for their stance on doctrines of the Bible.
 11. We should be very thankful for our freedom of religion here in America.
 12. But, if we should have to die for our faith, I would love to die as Stephen died.
 - a. He was a man full of faith and the Holy Ghost.
 - b. He was a man who saw God in heaven.
 - c. He was a man who committed his spirit to God
 - d. He was a man who gave up the ghost, or died, asking God not to lay his persecutors’ sins to their charge.
 - e. And he fell asleep. That is what death is to the believer.
 13. Persecution will not stop
 14. Pain will not stop
 15. Sorrows and disappointments will not stop
 16. Justice will not be just
 17. All in the earth is vanity.
 18. ... until we die.
 19. Then to the believer we read:

- a. Acts 20:32 *And now, brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of his grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified.*
- b. Eph 1:14 *Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory.*
- c. 1 Peter 1:4 *To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you,*

XV. THE UNSEEN WORLD

A. Introduction

1. There is a world outside of this world. It is a spirit world where spiritual beings exist.
2. They are invisible to us, so we call their world “the unseen world.”
3. The word HADES in the Greek language basically means “the unseen world.”
4. The word SHEOL in the Hebrew language means basically the same.
5. This world has properties, a population, and a purpose, so this message will be divided into those three topics: PROPERTIES, POPULATION, AND PURPOSE.

B. The Properties Of The Unseen World

1. First, it is unseen
 - a. That is, it is unseen by us as earthly creatures; that is, it is normally or mostly unseen to us, since some have seen spiritual beings manifested in the flesh and have seen them with their own eyes.
 - b. 1 Cor 2:9 *But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*
 - c. 2 Cor 4:18 *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.*
 - d. Col 2:18 *Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind,*
 - e. Heb 11:1 *Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.*
 - f. 1 Peter 1:8 *Whom having not seen, ye love; in whom, though now ye see [him] not, yet believing, ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory:*
 - g. 1 John 4:20 *If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?*
 - h. Rom 1:20 *For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse:*
 - i. Col 1:15-16 *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: 16 For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him:*
 - j. 1 Tim 1:17 *Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honour and glory for ever and ever. Amen.*
 - k. Heb 11:27 *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*
2. Second, it is spiritual
 - a. 1 Cor 10:4 *And did all drink the same spiritual drink: for they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them: and that Rock was Christ.*

- b. 1 Cor 15:44, 46 *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body . . . 46 Howbeit that [was] not first which is spiritual, but that which is natural; and afterward that which is spiritual.*
 - c. Eph 1:3 *Blessed [be] the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly [places] in Christ:*
 - d. Eph 6:12 *For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high [places].*
 - e. 1 Peter 2:5 *Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.*
3. Third, it is eternal
- a. 2 Cor 4:18 *While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen [are] temporal; but the things which are not seen [are] eternal.*
 - b. Mark 10:30 *But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life.*
 - c. Titus 3:7 *That being justified by his grace, we should be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.*
 - d. Jude 1:21 *Keep yourselves in the love of God, looking for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.*
 - e. Rev 2:11 *He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches; He that overcometh shall not be hurt of the second death.*
 - f. Mark 3:29 *But he that shall blaspheme against the Holy Ghost hath never forgiveness, but is in danger of eternal damnation:*
4. Fourth, it is compartmental
- a. Isa 14:15 *Yet thou shalt be brought down to hell, to the sides of the pit.* See also Ezekiel 32:23.
 - b. Isa 24:18 *And it shall come to pass, [that] he who fleeth from the noise of the fear shall fall into the pit; and he that cometh up out of the midst of the pit shall be taken in the snare: for the windows from on high are open, and the foundations of the earth do shake.*
 - c. It seems from this that there may be places for the wicked dead to exist in hell in areas that are more severe than others—I cannot know that for sure; but I do know there are degrees of punishment in hell.
 - d. I do know in Heaven that more rewards will be given to one person than for another, but I do not know that there are compartments in Heaven. We are all on the same level, because we have all been saved by the grace of God.
 - e. We do know that there are two compartments—Heaven and Hell
 - f. There is no third compartment.
 - g. There is neither a Purgatory nor a Paradise that is separate from Heaven and Hell.
 - h. We need be concerned only of the two real places: Heaven and Hell
 - i. To which will you dwell in eternity for eternity?

C. The Population of The Unseen World

1. Lost and Saved

- a. Daniel 12:1-3 *And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. 2 And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. 3 And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.*
- b. Matt 25:46 *And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.*

2. God and Angels

- a. Gen. 28:12 *And he dreamed, and behold a ladder set up on the earth, and the top of it reached to heaven: and behold the angels of God ascending and descending on it.*
- b. Matt 18:10 *Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.*
- c. Mark 13:32 *But of that day and [that] hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father.*
- d. Rev 8:13 *And I beheld, and heard an angel flying through the midst of heaven, saying with a loud voice, Woe, woe, woe, to the inhabitants of the earth by reason of the other voices of the trumpet of the three angels, which are yet to sound!*
- e. There are bad angels also: Re 12:7 *And there was war in heaven: Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels,*

D. The Purpose of the Unseen World

1. Reward

- a. To the saved
 - (1) Matt 5:12 *Rejoice, and be exceeding glad: for great [is] your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you.*
 - (2) Rom 4:4 *Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt.*
 - (3) 1 Cor 3:8 *Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour.*
 - (4) 1 Cor 3:14 *If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.*
 - (5) Col 3:24 *Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ.*
 - (6) Heb 10:35 *Cast not away therefore your confidence, which hath great recompence of reward.*
 - (7) Rev 22:12 *And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward [is] with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.*

- b. To the lost
 - (1) Rev 18:6 *Reward her even as she rewarded you, and double unto her double according to her works: in the cup which she hath filled fill to her double.*
 - (2) 2 Peter 2:13 *And shall receive the reward of unrighteousness, [as] they that count it pleasure to riot in the day time. Spots [they are] and blemishes, sporting themselves with their own deceivings while they feast with you;*
- 2. Judgment
 - a. General
 - (1) Matt 7:2 *For with what judgment ye judge, ye shall be judged: and with what measure ye mete, it shall be measured to you again.*
 - (2) Matt 12:36 *But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.*
 - (3) Rom 14:12 *So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.*
 - b. The Lost
 - (1) Matt 10:15 *Verily I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable for the land of Sodom and Gomorrha in the day of judgment, than for that city.*
 - (2) Rom. 2:5 *But after thy hardness and impenitent heart treasurest up unto thyself wrath against the day of wrath and revelation of the righteous judgment of God;*
 - (3) Rev. 20:11-12 *And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. 12 And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.*
 - c. The Saved
 - (1) Rom 14:10 *But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.*
- 3. Blessings
 - a. New bodies: Phil. 3:21 *Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.*
 - b. See Jesus as he is: 1 John 3:2 *Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*
 - c. See that which is invisible: Heb 11:27 *By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.*
- 4. Warnings
 - a. Do not fool with wicked invisible world: Deut. 18:10-12 *There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth divination, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, 11 Or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. 12 For all that do these things are an abomination unto the LORD: and because of*

- these abominations the LORD thy God doth drive them out from before thee.*
- b. Watch for the coming of Christ: Matt 25:13 *Watch therefore, for ye know neither the day nor the hour wherein the Son of man cometh.*

T H E E N D

After Thoughts

Of course, many more things could be said about Life and Death. If a true course of study were made on this subject, the sessions would be almost endless.

It is the hope of the author that these brief outlines will be both beneficial and enjoyable through the study of God's word to those who take advantage of their use.

I am indebted to several writers for illustrations and thoughts concerning the sundry topics that have been chosen for this booklet.

May God be honored in truths that are presented herewith, and may many receive edification from God's word through using these studies in discipleship, Sunday School, or sermons.

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