

7-22-2022

THE SURE WORD by Jonnie Hutchison

DEATH

The subject of death is not one that the majority of people like to discuss or even think about. Death is viewed as an enemy and the “grim reaper.” Most fear death. Some like to joke about death referring to it in terms like “the Big Adios” or “on the wrong side of the grass.” Of course, death is nothing to joke about. It is a profoundly serious matter. That is true because each of us will suffer physical death. Hebrews 9:27 reads, “And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Our appointment with death cannot be avoided nor rescheduled. The only exception to that rule is those who are alive and remain when Christ returns (1 Thess. 4:14-18).

Physical death is the separation of the spirit from the physical body. James describes death in the words of James 2:26, “For **as the body without the spirit is dead**, so faith without works is dead also.” Death is described in the Bible as a “sleep” (Psalm 13:3; John 11:13). However, the record of the rich man and Lazarus indicates a conscious existence following death (Luke 16:19-31). While the rich man is pictured as being tormented, Lazarus rested in Abraham’s bosom. At death, the spirit (the inward man) departs from the body (the outward man) and continues to exist apart from the body.

Not only does the Bible speak of physical death, but it also speaks of “spiritual death.” Sin brings spiritual death which is separation from God (Isa. 59:1-2). The Bible tells us, “The soul who sins shall die” (Ezekiel 18:20). This is not physical death for all shall die physically, but spiritual death which is the result of sin. Sin spiritually separates the sinner from God.

God has chosen through Jesus Christ to reconcile sinners back to God. To end the separation by the forgiveness of sins. This takes place when one reaches the blood of Jesus which washes away sin. In obedience to the Lord’s commands to believe in Jesus (John 8:24), repent of sin (Luke 13:3), confess faith in Christ (Rom. 10:9-10) and being immersed in water into the death of Jesus Christ one’s sins are washed away (Acts 22:16; Rom. 6:3-5). The Bible pictures this as **dying “to sin.”** “Likewise, you also, reckon yourselves to **be dead indeed to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord**” (Romans 6:11).

Yes, each of us shall die physically. But no one need die spiritually. Let the blood of Jesus wash away your sins, follow His will in your life, and enjoy the hope of eternal life in heaven. Read Rev. 13:14. Questions? Address them to greenplaincoc@gmail.com. Visit gbntv.org.