



9 | HEBREWS 2:14-15

THE POWER OF CHRIST'S DEATH

We need not fear death as believers because Jesus has put death to death.

Outline

- 1. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEATH (2:14)**
The Author of Life: Jesus
The Author of Death: The Devil
- 2. THE BELIEVER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEATH (2:15)**
Death: A Step to Heaven for the Believer
Jesus defeated Death and the Devil
We are no longer slaves, but sons

Introduction

Death can be very disorienting for anyone, even believers. What is the believer's attitude toward death in light of Christ's conquering of death?

Hebrews 2:14-15 | Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, ¹⁵ and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Jesus will return. Can you imagine? Saints, when he returns our true life will begin. Your sin will be remembered no more. Most people on the earth live for this life only. They are not planning for eternity. They are so nearsighted that they just want to make it through the day. They put off thinking about the Lord's second coming.

Key thought: We need not fear death as believers because Jesus has put death to death.

1. GOD'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEATH (2:14)

Hebrews 2:14 | Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil.

THE AUTHOR OF LIFE: JESUS

Someone had to pay for sin. Jesus was incarnated as flesh and blood to die for the forgiveness of our sins. We are saved from God's wrath, not because we love God, but that he first loved us and sent his Son to be a propitiation for our sins (1 Jn 4:10).

Atonement: Jesus makes atonement for us so that the wrath of God would be satisfied. His justice is propitiated.

Incarnation: Jesus was incarnated to bring life for sinners who are already condemned to hell, but Jesus' brings life by destroying death with death.

THE AUTHOR OF DEATH: THE DEVIL

Satan is prowling about seeking whom he may devour. "The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly" (Jn 10:10). The devil is a murderer and a liar. He is he cosmic psychopath, and we cannot give our lives over to him in slavish fear of death.

2. THE BELIEVER'S ATTITUDE TOWARD DEATH (2:15)

Hebrews 2:15 | And deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.

Christ's incarnation wasn't enough to save us. He had to defeat death by his own death. Many people have great fear of death. The devil uses death to keep people in lifelong slavery to his schemes and traps through the idolatry of pleasure, possessions, popularity, and power.

DEATH: A STEP TO HEAVEN FOR THE BELIEVER

When we as believers lose a loved one, we grieve. We see the lifeless body in the coffin, and it causes us pain. Death for the Christian is just one more step toward the final resurrection.

1 John 3:8 | Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 | But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

A proper view of death is found in 1 Corinthians 15.

1 Corinthians 15:50-58 | I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. ⁵³ For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. ⁵⁴ When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory." ⁵⁵ "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ⁵⁶ The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. ⁵⁷ But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our

Lord Jesus Christ. ⁵⁸Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

JESUS DEFEATED DEATH AND THE DEVIL

Jesus was tempted by the devil (Mt 4:1ff). John 10:10, Jesus came to give life, but the devil comes to destroy and keep the human race in slavery.

Ephesians 4:27 | Give no opportunity to the devil.”

Resist the devil. Don't let bitterness get into your heart. Practice acknowledging him in all our ways (Pro 3:5-6). Don't gossip. Be careful of pride. “Pride goes before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Pro 16:18). Be careful of media and TV. Don't invite the devil in your home. Seven deadly sins: drunkenness, laziness, pride, lust, pride, envy / greed, idolatry (Pro 6:16-19). Be careful what you think. No one hears it, but God hears it! Keep God's commandments. “If you love me, keep my commandments” live under his Lordship (Jn 14:15). Philippians 4:8 – think on things that are godly.

1 John 2:15-16 | Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶For all that is in the world—the desires of the flesh and the desires of the eyes and pride of life—is not from the Father but is from the world.

We cannot dismiss the invisible war we are in.

Ephesians 6:10-12 | Finally, be strong in the Lord and in the strength of his might. ¹¹Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. ¹²For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places.

The devil is prowling around wanting to destroy the believer.

1 Peter 5:8-9 | Be sober-minded; be watchful. Your adversary the devil prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour. ⁹Resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same kinds of suffering are being experienced by your brotherhood throughout the world.

Jesus defeated Satan. But it is the believer's responsibility to resist the devil. We have been set free from Satan's authority. We are now under God's authority. Satan wants to destroy the testimony of the believer. We need to put on the full armor of God (Eph 6:10-20).

WE ARE NO LONGER SLAVES, BUT SONS

Where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is freedom. We are no longer slaves to Satan. We lost our authority in the garden, when we succumbed in Adam to the wicked snake. But Jesus has crushed the serpent's head. Live in your sonship and adoption. Live under the authority of Jesus and not the flesh, the world, or the devil.

If we do sin, we need to walk in the light, confess our sins, and rely on our Advocate who cleanses us from all unrighteousness (1 Jn 1:9-2:2).

Conclusion

We are no longer slaves of fear, but we are set free in the Spirit. Now we have a lifelong joy and expectation of heaven because Christ defeated death by death.