

DELIVERED FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH

HEBREWS 2:14-15



All Bible Verses are in the ESV unless otherwise noted.

© 2001–2017 Crossway.

All rights reserved.

All emphasis added are mine

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.*

What is death?

Genesis 2:16-17 *And the LORD God commanded the man, saying, "You may surely eat of every tree of the garden, 17 but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die."*

- God created death as judgment.
- Adam and Eve were put out of the garden and separated from God (Gen. 3:24), and would now experience death (Gen. 3:19).
- Apart from Christ we are all separated from God.
- Isaiah 59:2 *but your iniquities have made a separation between you and your God, and your sins have hidden his face from you so that he does not hear.*

GRIEVING

Grieving does not indicate a lack of faith.

- Acts 8:2 *Devout men buried Stephen and made great lamentation over him.*
- Philippians 2:27 *Indeed he was ill, near to death. But God had mercy on him, and not only on him but on me also, lest I should have sorrow upon sorrow.*
- John 11:33-35 *When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in his spirit and greatly troubled. 34 And he said, "Where have you laid him?" They said to him, "Lord, come and see." 35 Jesus wept.*
- 1 Thessalonians 4:13 *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.*

THE FIRST DEATH

Scripture may not tell us all we want to know, but we can rest assured that it tells us everything God wants us to know, which is everything we need to know.

Luke 23:43 *And he said to him, "Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

Philippians 1:21 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

1 Corinthians 15:17-18 *And if Christ has not been raised, your faith is futile and you are still in your sins. 18 Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished.*

The Christian doesn't just see heaven as more desirable than hell, the Christian sees heaven as infinitely more desirable than this life.

THE FIRST DEATH

Question 41: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

Answer: At death the souls of believers are made perfect in holiness (Heb. 12:23), and immediately pass into glory (Phil. 1:23, 2 Cor. 5:8, Luke 23:43). Their bodies rest in their graves till the resurrection (1 Thess. 4:14, Job 19:26).

THE SECOND DEATH

Revelation 21:8 *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*"

Revelation 2:11 *'He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches. He who overcomes will not be hurt by the second death.'*

SHOULD WE FEAR DEATH?

Genesis 3:15 *I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and her offspring; he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel."*

Hebrews 2:14a *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things,*

- *Children* - Christians (v13 – Christ speaks of the children God has given him)
- *He* - (Christ) partook of flesh and blood – He condescended and took on human flesh.

V14b-15 *that through death he might destroy [NASB – render powerless] 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.*

- The power of the devil has been broken
- Those that share in his death have been delivered from slavery to the fear of death

SHOULD WE FEAR DEATH?

The cry of the Christian should be:

- 1 Corinthians 15:55 *“O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”*

1 Corinthians 15:22 *For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.*

Question 42: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the Resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection, believers are raised up in glory; they shall be openly acknowledged and acquitted in the Day of Judgment, and made perfectly blessed in the full enjoyment of God to all eternity. (Phil. 3:20, 21; 1 Cor. 15:42, 43; Matthew 10:32; 1 John 3:2; 1 Thess. 4:17).

SHOULD WE FEAR DEATH?

No guilt in life, no fear in death—
This is the pow'r of Christ in me;
From life's first cry to final breath,
Jesus commands my destiny.
No pow'r of hell, no scheme of man,
Can ever pluck me from His hand;
Till He returns or calls me home—
Here in the pow'r of Christ I'll stand."

(In Christ Alone)

SHOULD UNBELIEVERS FEAR DEATH?

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

If you are not repenting of your sins and trusting in the finished work of Christ alone to save you (present tense realities), you should absolutely fear death.

Genesis 3:1-4 *Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the LORD God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" 2 And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, 3 but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" 4 But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die.*

Hebrews 9:27 *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment,*

SHOULD UNBELIEVERS FEAR DEATH?

Revelation 21:8 *But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.*"

Question 43: What shall be done to the wicked at death?

Answer: The souls of the wicked shall at death, be cast into the torments of hell (Luke 16:22-24), and their bodies lie in their graves till the resurrection and judgment of the great day (Daniel 12:2, John 5:29, Rev 20:11-15).

Question 44: What shall be done to the wicked at the Day of Judgment?

Answer: At the Day of Judgment, the bodies of the wicked, being raised out of their graves shall be sentenced, together with their souls, to unspeakable torments with the devil and his angels forever. (Daniel 12:2; John 5:28, 29; 2 Thess. 1:9; Matthew 25:41; Rev 20:14-15).