

Joy In Death

Facts About Death

- Every person dies.
- Every hour 6,305 people die.
- We hate death.
- We fight death.
- We can't accept death.
- Ecclesiastes 3.11: "God has set eternity in the hearts of men..."

Hebrews 9:28

People are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment.

False Teachings

- First group: "we all win"
- Second group: annihilationism
- Third group: second chance (reincarnation)
- Fourth group: soul sleep

2 Corinthians 5:8

To be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord.

What Awaits Us...

- Physical body and soul separated at death.
- Body goes into grave; soul continues to live.
- Holding place, with "a great chasm" (Luke 16)
- Paradise
- Hades

Paradise

- O.T. saints
- Place of blessing & joy
- Jesus comes and lives sinless, perfect life
- Substitutes Himself in our place at Cross
- Thief: "Today, you will be with Me in paradise."

Hades

- Occupied by people right now
- Conscious, eternal torment
- Burning, discomfort (Luke 16)
- Wailing, gnashing of teeth
- Justice
- Day of Judgement

Jesus Christ is Lord over everything! He is the One who rules over heaven and earth and hell.

The Apostle Paul

- Knows where he's going after death
- Ready to die, with great faith
- Already faced death many times before this
- Knows his life is very short

Philippians 1:18

And because of this I rejoice.

Philippians 1:18-19

Yes, and I will continue to rejoice, for I know that through your prayers and God's provision of the Spirit of Jesus Christ what has happened to me will turn out for my deliverance.

Philippians 1:20

I eagerly expect and hope that I will in no way be ashamed but will have sufficient courage so that now as always Christ will be exalted in my body, whether by life or by death.

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

Philippians 1:22-30

If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! ²³ I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ²⁵ Convinced of this, I know that I will remain, and I will continue with all of you for your progress and joy in the faith, ²⁶ so that

Philippians 1:22-30

through my being with you again your boasting in Christ Jesus will abound on account of me.²⁷ Whatever happens, conduct yourselves in a manner worthy of the gospel of Christ. Then, whether I come and see you or only hear about you in my absence, I will know that you stand firm in the one Spirit, striving together as one for the faith of the gospel ²⁸ without being frightened in

Philippians 1:22-30

any way by those who oppose you. This is a sign to them that they will be destroyed, but that you will be saved – and that by God. ²⁹ For it has been granted to you on behalf of Christ not only to believe in him, but also to suffer for him, ³⁰ since you are going through the same struggle you saw I had, and now hear that I still have."

Philippians 1:21

For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.

"To live is Christ, to die is gain."

#1: Everyone will die.

#2: Everyone will stand before Jesus.

Rather than *arguing* with God, you should *receive* Him.

Rather than *judging* Him, you should thank Him.

Rather than facing Him as a foe, you should run to Him as a Friend.



Horacio Spafford

- Christian leader in city of Chicago.
- Grieving death of their son (scarlet fever).
- Great Chicago Fire of 1871 (loses everything).
- D.L. Moody invites them to England.
- Ship collides with another; all four of his daughters drown.
- Anna is one of small handful of survivors.

Horacio Spafford

- Passes over scene of tragic accident.
- Withdraws to his cabin, overcome with sorrow.
- "When sorrows like sea billows roll, whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say 'It is well with my soul'."