

## **Beyond Sunday with Scripture References**

### **Explanation of Benefits & Death: The Last Enemy(Mysteries pts 1 & 2)**

#### **A Sermon Application Guide**

This guide is designed to offer a simple tool for those wanting to take the next step with Sunday's message. You can print this guide to study on your own, or use it in a group and experience transformation together.

#### **Message Theme & Prayer Focus**

What Happens When You Die?

*"Father, thank you for your love. Give me ears to hear and a heart to receive the truth that you have for me in this message. Fill me with your light, your life, and your love to dispel whatever darkness or death that I might encounter as I continue to live all of my days for you. Strengthen and carry me Father, in Jesus' name. Amen!"*

#### **Key Concepts/Truths**

God formed us in His likeness and gave us His Spirit of life, a soul that does not die, and our earthly body. We are a spirit, we have a soul--our mind-- and we live inside of a body.

When we stay in a "spirit, soul, body" mentality, it will help us have a proper Heavenly perspective of ourselves and of the world around us.

The world's perspective of man only recognizes a body and a soul, but the Bible calls our spirit the hidden man of the heart.

Doing something like going to space requires a space suit. In the same way, living on earth requires us to have our body--our earth suit. Taking care of it is important.

As long as we have our body, our spirit remains here, but once a believer's body is gone, their spirit is carried by angels to be with the Lord.

Death is an enemy that takes our body, but our spirit cannot die, nor can it grow old.

Death is when your spirit steps out of your body. The act of stepping out does not make you any less yourself. We are just as much alive, if not even more alive, because we will have been purified.

When we die and go to Heaven, we will be gathered to our people, our friends, and family.

When Jesus went to the cross, God put all of our unrighteousness on Him, and put all of His righteousness on us. With that righteousness, which we have right now, we will spend all eternity in God's presence.

When a believer dies, we may grieve, but that person is blessed, made whole, and living with God in Heaven.

Key Verses:

Genesis 1:26 • Genesis 2:7 • Job 32:8 • 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 • 5:23 • Hebrews 4:12 • James 2:26 • 2 Corinthians 4:16 • 2 Corinthians 5:21 • 2 Corinthians 12:1-6 • 1 Corinthians 15:26 • Luke 16:19-31 • Ephesians 4:8-9 • Zechariah 14:5 • Revelation 20:4-7 • Revelation 21:1-5 • Philippians 1:21-23

### **Daily Application**

Death is an enemy, and it is so often difficult to speak of. We avoid talking about difficult things, but in doing so we miss out on an enormous opportunity to bring God's life into the situation.

When someone close to us dies, or a loved one is going through a difficult time, we can point them to the life that the situation needs--Jesus. We don't do this by cramming things down their throat or getting them to move on from grief prematurely. It's healthy to grieve loss, and it's healthy to be there for someone in their grief. But we can be the constant light and love of Jesus to them in that situation and help carry them when they feel weak.

When people experience the selfless love of Christ, it does something inside of them. Whether or not someone is a believer, they need Jesus and all that He is.

### **Can we take some time this week to be Jesus to a lost and hurting world?**

There are people in the world dying for Christ. There are people in the world who have no idea who they are and are longing for a sense of identity and stability in anything they can get their hands on that feels safe. Jesus wants to love those people. Before we think of clever things to say and try to convince people of what they should know and how they should live, can we first consider how Jesus would love them? How would Jesus speak to them? How would Jesus restore them?

Ask Jesus to use you this week in a way that stretches you into taking a next step in who He has called you to be. Offer your hand to someone in need. Whether it's a death or some other difficult situation that they are in the middle of experiencing. Offer them a helping hand, a loving heart, and a listening ear. Love them well with Christ's love. It will point them to Him.

### **This Week's Declaration**

"I am loved by God. I was formed in His likeness with a spirit, soul, and body. I choose to bless and glorify God with who He created me to be all the days of my life. Because Jesus went to the cross, all of my unrighteousness was taken on by Him, and all of His righteousness was put on me. I walk in that righteousness daily. I live for God in all that I do, and I do not fear death nor what it brings. I recognize the experience of death is an opportunity to shine the light of Christ. I recognize each of those opportunities is a moment to show Christ's love, His grace, and bring glory to His name. I continue to listen to what the Holy Spirit has for me in each moment as He leads and guides me into all truth, in Jesus' name!"

## **What's Next?**

Now it's time to write down anything that the Lord has spoken to you. Praise Him, Thank Him and ask the Holy Spirit to help you walk this out.

## **Scripture References Explanation of Benefits**

### **Genesis 1:26 NKJV**

Then God said, "Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."

### **John 3:34 NKJV**

For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God, for God does not give the Spirit by measure.

### **Hebrews 1:14 NKJV**

Are they not all ministering spirits sent forth to minister for those who will inherit salvation?

### **Genesis 2:7 NKJV**

And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul.

### **Psalms 1:4-5 NKJV**

He ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, Nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

### **Psalms 23:6 NKJV**

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me All the days of my life; And I will dwell in the house of the Lord Forever.

### **1 Thessalonians 5:23 NKJV**

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole spirit, soul, and body be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Hebrews 4:12 NKJV**

For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and of joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NKJV**

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so

God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep. For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

### **2 Corinthians 5:8 NKJV**

We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

### **1 Thessalonians 4:16-18 NKJV**

For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord. Therefore comfort one another with these words.

### **Zechariah 14:5 NKJV**

Then you shall flee through My mountain valley, For the mountain valley shall reach to Azal. Yes, you shall flee As you fled from the earthquake In the days of Uzziah king of Judah. Thus the Lord my God will come, And all the saints with You.

### **Revelation 20:4-7 NKJV**

And I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was committed to them. Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. But the rest of the dead did not live again until the thousand years were finished. This is the first resurrection. Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years.

### **Revelation 21:1-5 NKJV**

Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away." Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

### **1 Corinthians 3:13 NKJV**

Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's work which he has built on it

endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone's work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire.

**1 Thessalonians 4:13 NKJV**

But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.

**Psalm 1:4-5 NKJV**

The ungodly are not so, But are like the chaff which the wind drives away. Therefore the ungodly shall not stand in the judgment, nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.

**Revelation 20:11-15 NKJV**

Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.