

>> ALL AUTHORITY HAS BEEN GIVEN TO ME IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. GO THEREFORE, AND MAKE DISCIPLES OF ALL THE NATIONS, BAPTIZING THEM IN THE NAME OF THE FATHER, AND OF THE SON, AND OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, TEACHING THEM TO OBSERVE ALL THINGS THAT I HAVE COMMANDED YOU. AND LO, I AM WITH YOU ALWAYS, EVEN TO THE END OF THE AGE.

>> (SINGING)

CLIFF >> HELLO. MY NAME IS CLIFF GOODWIN, AND I WELCOME YOU HERE TODAY FOR PREACHING THE GOSPEL. AS ALWAYS, I HAVE MY BIBLE IN HAND, AND I ENCOURAGE YOU TO TAKE YOUR BIBLE AND TO FOLLOW ALONG WITH ME. ALL TOO OFTEN IN THIS MODERN RELIGIOUS WORLD, AUDIENCES SIT AND LISTEN TO SERMONS, LISTEN TO PRESENTATIONS OR CLASSES WITHOUT EVER CRACKING OPEN THEIR BIBLES. THIS IS VERY DANGEROUS, BECAUSE SO OFTEN WHAT IS ACTUALLY BEING TAUGHT OR ESPOUSED IS CONTRARY TO THE SCRIPTURES. AND YET HOW ARE PEOPLE TO KNOW IF THEY ARE NOT STUDENTS OF THE WORD THEMSELVES? I ALWAYS ENCOURAGE YOU, WHATEVER I SAY ON THIS BROADCAST, PLEASE, PLEASE TAKE IT, WEIGH IT IN THE SCALES OF GOD'S WORD, AND MAKE SURE THAT THE THINGS I'M TEACHING ARE CONGRUENT, IN HARMONY WITH SCRIPTURE. THAT BEING SAID, WE HAVE A STUDY AHEAD OF US TODAY, SIMPLY PUT, THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF DEATH. THE BIBLE DOCTRINE OF DEATH. NOW, I KNOW THE MOMENT YOU HEAR AND SEE THAT TITLE, YOU'RE PROBABLY THINKING, OOH, I'M NOT REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS. AND TRUE ENOUGH, THERE ARE SOME VERY UNPLEASANT THINGS ALONG THESE LINES. NO DOUBT ABOUT THAT. AND YET WE NEED TO BE WELL INSTRUCTED IN WHAT THE BIBLE TEACHES CONCERNING ANY TOPIC. CONCERNING EVERY TOPIC THAT THE BIBLE ADDRESSES, WE SHOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING WHAT IT SAYS. SOMETHING AS UNIVERSAL, SOMETHING WITH AS MANY RAMIFICATIONS AS DEATH HOLDS, WELL, THEN CERTAINLY EVEN THE MORE WE NEED TO BE EAGER TO LEARN WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT THIS TOPIC. AND SO THAT BEING SAID, LET ME PREFACE ANY FURTHER REMARKS THAT I MAKE BY POINTING OUT THAT IN THE BIBLE, THE WORD OF GOD, THE WORD DEATH IS OFTEN USED IN DIFFERENT OR VARYING SENSES. AND WE NEED TO KEEP THAT IN MIND, BECAUSE IF WE HAVE ONE IDEA OF DEATH OR THE IDEA OF DEATH IN ONE SENSE, AND WE TRY TO PIN THAT EXACT SENSE IN EVERY USAGE OR IN EVERY SITUATION, WE'RE LIKELY GOING TO COME AWAY CONFUSED OR EVEN WORSE, BELIEVING SOMETHING THAT'S IN ERROR. SO LOOK WITH ME TO MATTHEW CHAPTER 8, AND HERE'S AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT I'VE JUST STATED, HOW THAT THE WORD DEATH IS USED IN DIFFERENT SENSES. BUT JESUS SAID UNTO HIM, FOLLOW ME, AND LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD. NOW, THINK ABOUT THAT FOR A MOMENT. IF THE WORD DEAD IS NOT USED IN AT LEAST TWO DIFFERENT SENSES IN THAT STATEMENT, WELL, THEN WE HAVE A MOST PUZZLING STATEMENT MADE BY OUR LORD INDEED. LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD. OBVIOUSLY, THE LATTER OR SECOND USAGE OF THE WORD IS DEAD TALKING ABOUT THOSE WHO HAVE PHYSICALLY DIED; HENCE, THEY NEED TO BE BURIED, OR THEY WILL NEED TO BE BURIED. BUT HOW IS IT THAT THE FIRST USAGE, LET THE DEAD BURY THEIR DEAD, HOW ARE WE TO UNDERSTAND THAT? BECAUSE IF WE UNDERSTAND IT IN THE SAME SENSE AS THE SECOND USAGE, WELL, THEN WE HAVE CORPSES BURYING OTHER CORPSES. AND THAT'S FOOLISH. THAT'S ABSURD. AND CERTAINLY OUR LORD NEVER SPOKE IN AN ABSURD MANNER. OUR LORD ALWAYS SPOKE LOGICALLY. NOW, HE OFTEN SPOKE FIGURE FIGURATIVELY, AND THAT'S THE CASE HERE. HE'S PROBABLY MEANING LET THOSE WHO ARE DEAD SPIRITUALLY BURY THEIR OWN PHYSICAL DEAD. THOSE WHO ARE SO DISINTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL THINGS, LET THEM FOCUS OR WAIT ON A LOVED ONE TO DIE SO THAT THEY CAN BE BURIED; BUT THOSE OF YOU WHO ARE INTERESTED IN SPIRITUAL RICHES, YOU COME AND FOLLOW ME. WE CAN UNDERSTAND THE SENSE THAT OUR LORD MEANT EVEN THOUGH HE

WAS SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY. BUT HE NEVER SPOKE FOOLISHLY. HE NEVER SPOKE ABSURDLY, IF YOU WILL. THIS BEING SAID, WE'VE SET THE TABLE. WE'VE REALIZED, WE'VE EVEN NOTICED AN EXAMPLE OF HOW THE BIBLE SPEAKS OF DEATH IN DIFFERENT SENSES. IN FACT, TODAY I WANT US TO REALIZE AT LEAST THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF DEATH THAT WE READ ABOUT AND ENCOUNTER IN SCRIPTURE. SO LET'S GET RIGHT INTO THE FIRST OF THESE. NUMBER ONE, PHYSICAL DEATH. THIS IS THE TYPE DEATH THAT WE OFTEN THINK ABOUT, PHYSICAL DEATH. A PERSON CEASES BREATHING, THEIR HEART RATE STOPS AND IT DOESN'T START BACK. THAT PERSON IS PHYSICALLY DEAD. AND THE BIBLE TELLS US A GREAT DEAL ABOUT THIS TYPE OF DEATH. WE'LL BEGIN IN JAMES 2:26, A BIBLICAL DEFINITION OF SUCH DEATH. FOR AS THE BODY, THAT TELLS US WE'RE TALKING PHYSICALLY, WITHOUT THE SPIRIT IS DEAD, SO FAITH WITHOUT WORKS IS DEAD ALSO. AND SO BY BIBLICAL DEFINITION, WHEN DOES PHYSICAL DEATH OCCUR? AND THE ANSWER IS WHEN THE SPIRIT, THE IMMORTAL PORTION OF MAN WITHIN, WHEN THE SPIRIT DEPARTS OR LEAVES THE BODY, PHYSICAL DEATH HAS OCCURRED. JAMES, OF COURSE, IN HIS CONTEXT, HE'S NOT REALLY TALKING ABOUT DEATH SO MUCH AS HE'S TALKING ABOUT FAITH, GENUINE LIVING FAITH, WHICH IS ALWAYS ACCOMPANIED BY WORKS. TO POINT THAT OUT, HE USES THIS ILLUSTRATION OF A BODY WITHOUT A SPIRIT. AND YOU AND I WOULD REFER TO SUCH AS A CORPSE. A BODY WITHOUT A SPIRIT IS DEAD. JUST A WORD ABOUT THAT BEFORE I MOVE ON TO THE NEXT PASSAGE. I KNOW THAT OFTEN TODAY WE'LL TALK ABOUT PEOPLE WHO CLINICALLY DIE, AND THEN THEY COME BACK TO LIFE. AND ALL IT MEANS IS THAT THEY WERE PERHAPS IN AN EMERGENCY ROOM OR PERHAPS IN A SURGERY ROOM TYPE SCENARIO, AND WHILE THEY WERE LAID AS IT WERE ON THE TABLE, THEIR HEART STOPPED BEATING, AND PERHAPS IT DIDN'T BEAT FOR SEVERAL SECONDS. AND SOMEONE MIGHT SAY, WELL, HE DIED RIGHT THERE ON THE OPERATING TABLE; BUT AFTER HE WAS SHOCKED, HE REVIVED AND HE CAME BACK TO LIFE. WELL, WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO UNDERSTAND THAT THOUGH HE MIGHT BE DESCRIBED AS HAVING DIED CLINICALLY OR MEDICALLY, YOU AND I NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT HIS SPIRIT HAD NOT YET LEFT HIS BODY. ONCE THE SPIRIT LEAVES THE BODY, THAT PERSON IS TRULY DEAD, AND THAT PERSON IS GOING TO REMAIN DEAD. THAT IS, UNTIL THE GREAT RESURRECTION THAT IS COMING IN THE LAST DAY. AND SO BE CAREFUL TO DRAW A DISTINCTION BETWEEN CLINICAL DEATH OR DYING AND ACTUAL DEATH, WHICH IS NOT REVERSED UNTIL THE FINAL RESURRECTION. NOW LET'S GO BACK TO ANOTHER PASSAGE. ECCLESIASTES 12:7 ALSO DESCRIBES DEATH FOR US. THEN SHALL THE DUST, A FIGURATIVE TERM FOR THIS PHYSICAL BODY, THEN SHALL THE DUST RETURN TO THE EARTH AS IT WAS, AND THE SPIRIT SHALL RETURN UNTO GOD WHO GAVE IT. AND SO MUCH LIKE JAMES WOULD DO CENTURIES LATER, HERE THE WISE MAN IS DESCRIBING FOR US WHAT HAPPENS AT DEATH. AT DEATH, THE PHYSICAL BODY WINDS UP ULTIMATELY RETURNING TO THE EARTH, BUT THE SPIRIT HAS DEPARTED. THIS HELPS US ALSO WITH THESE PEOPLE WHO HAVE THE IDEA THAT THERE ARE SPIRITS LEFT ROAMING AROUND ON THIS EARTH. NO. NOT ACCORDING TO ECCLESIASTES 12:7. ACCORDING TO ECCLESIASTES 12:7, WHEN A PERSON DIES, THE SPIRIT RETURNS UNTO GOD'S SAFE-KEEPING. THOSE SPIRITS ARE NOT LEFT TO WANDER OR REMAIN ON THIS EARTH. THEY RETURN UNTO GOD WHO GAVE THEM. AND SO THAT'S AN IMPORTANT THING TO POINT OUT ALSO. NOW, JUST TWO QUICK EXAMPLES OF HOW PHYSICAL DEATH INVOLVES THE LEAVING OR DEPARTING OF THE SPIRIT WITHIN FROM THE PHYSICAL BODY. LET'S LOOK NEXT TO OUR LORD HIMSELF. JESUS, HANGING ON THE CROSS, WE READ IN LUKE 23:46, AND WHEN JESUS HAD CRIED WITH A LOUD VOICE, HE SAID FATHER, INTO THY HANDS I COMMEND MY WHAT? MY SPIRIT. AND HAVING SAID THUS, HE GAVE UP THE GHOST. THAT LATTER EXPRESSION OF COURSE, BEING A TERM MEANING HE DIED. HE GAVE UP THE GHOST. HIS SPIRIT LEFT HIS PHYSICAL BODY. HE COMMENDED, HE ENTRUSTED HIS SPIRIT TO THE FATHER'S CARE, AND THUS UPON THAT DEPARTURE,

HE WAS DEAD UPON THE CROSS. ONE FINAL EXAMPLE. WE MOVE OVER INTO THE BOOK OF ACTS, AND WE HAVE THE EXAMPLE OF FAITHFUL STEPHEN, ONE OF THE EARLIEST MARTYRS IN THE CHURCH. IN FACT, THE FIRST MARTYR THAT WE HAVE RECORD OF FOLLOWING THE DAY OF PENTECOST. AND THEY STONED STEPHEN, CALLING UPON GOD AND SAYING, LORD JESUS, RECEIVE MY SPIRIT. AND SO STEPHEN WELL KNEW, OBVIOUSLY, THAT HE WAS ABOUT TO DIE; AND AT THIS POINT NEAR DEATH, HE CALLED UPON GOD, ASKING JESUS TO RECEIVE HIS SPIRIT. HE WELL KNEW, HE UNDERSTOOD WHAT PHYSICAL DEATH MEANT. NOW, LET'S GET READY FOR A SECOND TYPE OF DEATH THAT WE ALSO ENCOUNTER IN SCRIPTURE. NUMBER TWO, SPIRITUAL DEATH. WE'VE TALKED ABOUT PHYSICAL DEATH, BUT NOW WHAT ABOUT SPIRITUAL DEATH? IN THIS WAY, AND IT'S REALLY IMPORTANT THAT WE UNDERSTAND THIS CONCEPT, IN THIS WAY PASSAGES SUCH AS THE ONE WITH WHICH WE BEGAN, MATTHEW 8:22, THEY MAKE SENSE. THE ONLY WAY THAT YOU CAN HAVE THE DEAD BURYING THEIR DEAD IS OBVIOUSLY IN THE FIRST USAGE, YOU'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT PHYSICAL DEATH. NO, YOU'RE NOT. YOU MUST BE TALKING THEN ABOUT SOMETHING KNOWN AS SPIRITUAL DEATH. NOW, THIS IS A REALITY. AND IN FACT, BEFORE WE GET INTO EXAMINING THESE VARIOUS SCRIPTURES ALONG THESE LINES, LET ME JUST SAY THAT THERE ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD PEOPLE WALKING ALL AROUND US IN THIS WORLD. THE WORLD IS FULL OF THE DEAD. AND I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING SENSATIONAL. I'M NOT TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING MYTHICAL OR FICTITIOUS LIKE ZOMBIES OR THE UNDEAD OR ANY OF THAT FOOLISHNESS. I'M TALKING ABOUT PEOPLE WHO HAVE A PULSE, PEOPLE WHO HAVE RESPIRATION RATES, PEOPLE WHO ARE WALKING AND TALKING AND LAUGHING AND JOKING AND EATING AND DRINKING, AND YET SPIRITUALLY THEY ARE DEAD BEFORE GOD. CAN YOU IMAGINE? LET'S GO TO EPHESIANS CHAPTER 2. FIRST OF ALL, THE CHAPTER OPENED AT VERSE 1 WITH PAUL'S WRITING, AND YOU HATH HE QUICKENED. NOW, THE WORD QUICKENED MEANS MADE ALIVE. WHO WERE DEAD IN TRESPASSES AND SINS. MAKE A NOTE OF THAT. THEN VERSE 5, YOU MOVE DOWN A FEW VERSES, EVEN WHEN WE WERE DEAD IN SINS HATH QUICKENED US TOGETHER, HATH MADE US ALIVE TOGETHER WITH CHRIST; BY GRACE YE ARE SAVED. IN BOTH OF THESE VERSES, VERSE 1 AND VERSE 5, NOTICE, NUMBER ONE, THE IDEA OF DEATH. THERE WAS A SENSE, SOME KIND OF SENSE IN WHICH THESE PEOPLE, THE EPHESIANS, AND THEN IN VERSE 5 PAUL EVEN INCLUDED HIMSELF IN THAT NUMBER, A SENSE IN WHICH THEY WERE DEAD; NUMBER TWO, NOTICE THAT IN BOTH VERSES THAT THERE WAS A QUICKENING, A MAKING ALIVE; AND THEN FINALLY, NUMBER THREE, NOTICE THAT IN BOTH OF THESE VERSES THE CAUSE OF THE SPIRITUAL DEATH IS SINS. SINS OR TRESPASSES, IF YOU WILL. THOSE SINS HAD RENDERED THE EPHESIANS PREVIOUSLY, THEY HAD RENDERED THE EPHESIANS SPIRITUALLY DEAD. THANKFULLY, THE GOSPEL IS ABLE TO QUICKEN, THE GOSPEL IS ABLE TO MAKE US ALIVE SPIRITUALLY. BUT WE NEED TO SAY SOMETHING ABOUT THIS PROBLEM OF SIN. IN ISAIAH 59:2 ISAIAH WOULD SAY, BUT YOUR INIQUITIES HAVE SEPARATED BETWEEN YOU AND YOUR GOD, AND YOUR SINS HAVE HID HIS FACE FROM YOU, THAT HE WILL NOT HEAR. THE NATURE OF SIN IS SUCH THAT SIN SEPARATES, IT ERECTS A WALL, IF YOU WILL, BETWEEN GOD, WHO IS SINLESS, AND MAN, WHO IS NOW A SINNER. HE'S SINFUL. AND SO WITH THAT WALL THUS ERECTED AS IT WERE, AND I'M SPEAKING FIGURATIVELY, THAT SOUL IS CUT OFF FROM THE FELLOWSHIP OF GOD BECAUSE OF SIN. AND IN THAT STATE, THAT STATE OF SEPARATION, THAT SOUL IS SAID TO BE DEAD. REMAINING IN THE BOOK OF EPHESIANS, IF YOU'LL GO OVER TO CHAPTER 4 WITH ME, WE CAN MAKE SENSE OF THIS. NOTICE IN VERSE 18 PAUL SAID, HAVING THE UNDERSTANDING DARKENED, BEING ALIENATED - MARK THAT AS A WORD OF SEPARATION - BEING ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD THROUGH THE IGNORANCE THAT IS IN THEM BECAUSE OF THE BLINDNESS OF THEIR HEART. WHAT PAUL'S DESCRIBING THERE IS HE'S DESCRIBING THE SPIRITUAL STATE OF ANY AND ALL UNCONVERTED SINNERS. BUT THE KEY PHRASEOLOGY WAS, ALIENATED FROM THE LIFE

OF GOD. GOD IS THE SOURCE OF LIFE. GOD IS THE GIVER OF LIFE. SO GUESS WHAT? IF A PERSON IS ALIENATED, SEPARATED FROM THE LIFE OF GOD, GUESS WHAT THEY ARE SPIRITUALLY? THEY'RE DEAD. THEY'RE DEAD IN THEIR SINS. NOW, EVEN THOUGH THE WORDS DEATH AND DEAD ARE USED IN A VARIETY OF SENSES THROUGHOUT THE SCRIPTURE, THERE IS ONE COMMON THEME THAT ALL TYPES OF DEATH, SO FAR AS I CAN DISCERN, ALL TYPES OF DEATH DO HAVE ONE COMMON CONCEPT IN COMMON, TO BE REDUNDANT. AND THAT IS THE CONCEPT OF SEPARATION. SEPARATION. SEE, PHYSICAL DEATH IS WHAT? SEPARATION OF BODY AND SPIRIT. SPIRITUAL DEATH IS WHAT? SEPARATION BETWEEN SINNER AND GOD. SPIRITUAL DEATH. LET'S GO TO ANOTHER PASSAGE. JOHN 5:24, JESUS IS SPEAKING. HE SAID VERILY, VERILY I SAY UNTO YOU, HE THAT HEARETH MY WORD AND BELIEVETH ON HIM THAT SENT ME HATH EVERLASTING LIFE AND SHALL NOT COME INTO CONDEMNATION, BUT IS PASSED FROM - NOW NOTICE THIS - IS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE. JESUS IS ADDRESSING A LIVING, BREATHING AUDIENCE PHYSICALLY SPEAKING. THEY'RE LIVING, BREATHING, WALKING, FOLLOWING JESUS, LISTENING TO HIS WORDS. BUT HE SAYS LOOK, IN ESSENCE, THOSE WHO COME TO ME, THOSE WHO SUBMIT TO ME, THEY BELIEVE ON ME AND ON HIM WHO SENT ME, AND OF COURSE BIBLICAL BELIEF IS ALWAYS OBEDIENT BELIEF, HE SAYS THEY HAVE PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE. SO IT WOULD SEEM OBVIOUS AGAIN THAT JESUS HERE IS SPEAKING SPIRITUALLY. IN THEIR SINS THEY WERE SPIRITUALLY DEAD, CUT OFF FROM GOD; BUT NOW COMING TO CHRIST PROVIDES MAN OR AFFORDS MAN THE REMEDY FOR SIN, SALVATION FROM SIN. AND THUS HAVING BEEN SAVED, HE OR SHE HAS PASSED FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE. AND SO IT IS AGAIN THAT SPIRITUAL DEATH IS CERTAINLY A REALITY. BUT HOW THANKFUL WE ARE THAT SPIRITUAL DEATH HAS A REMEDY. AND THAT IS TO BE FOUND ONLY IN CHRIST. AND WE SEE THAT IN THE NEXT PASSAGE. LOOK AT COLOSSIANS 2:12-13. PAUL REMINDED THE COLOSSIANS THAT THEY HAD BEEN BURIED WITH HIM, THAT IS, WITH CHRIST IN BAPTISM, WHEREIN ALSO YE ARE RISEN WITH HIM THROUGH THE FAITH OF THE OPERATION OF GOD. SEE, BAPTISM WOULD BE POWERLESS IF IT WERE NOT FOR GOD WHO DOES THE OPERATING. GOD DOES THE WORK IN BAPTISM, NOT THE SINNER. GOD WHO HATH RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. AND YOU, NOW NOTICE, YOU BEING DEAD IN YOUR SINS AND IN THE UNCIRCUMCISION OF YOUR FLESH HATH HE QUICKENED, HE HATH MADE ALIVE TOGETHER WITH HIM, HAVING FORGIVEN YOU ALL TRESPASSES. OH, THAT'S A THRILLING PASSAGE OF SCRIPTURE. WHY IS IT THAT PEOPLE PASS FROM DEATH UNTO LIFE? WHY? BECAUSE THEIR SINS HAVE BEEN FORGIVEN. THINK ABOUT HOW IMPORTANT THAT IS. IF WE ARE SPIRITUALLY DEAD, IT'S BECAUSE OF OUR SINS. BUT WHEN OUR SINS ARE FORGIVEN IN CHRIST, BY HIS BLOOD, WE ARE MADE ALIVE. SEE, THAT WALL AS IT WERE THAT HAD SEPARATED BETWEEN US AND GOD, THAT WALL IS TORN DOWN, AND WE AS MANKIND ARE RECONCILED TO OUR CREATOR, AND WE ARE NOW SPIRITUALLY ALIVE. THAT SEPARATION IS NO MORE. WE'VE COVERED TWO TYPES OF DEATH THAT WE READ ABOUT IN THE BIBLE. LET'S MOVE TO POINT NUMBER THREE, ETERNAL DEATH. ETERNAL DEATH IS THE MOST SOBERING INDEED. YOU REMEMBER A MOMENT AGO THAT I SAID THE GOOD THING OR THE GOOD NEWS IS IS THAT THERE IS A REMEDY FOR SPIRITUAL DEATH? WELL, THERE IS NOT A REMEDY FOR ETERNAL DEATH. IF A MAN OR A WOMAN, ACCOUNTABLE MAN OR WOMAN DIES PHYSICALLY WHILE HE OR SHE IS DEAD SPIRITUALLY, WELL THEN SADLY, THEY WILL BE DEAD ETERNALLY. ETERNAL DEATH ALSO INVOLVES SEPARATION. REMEMBER, PHYSICAL DEATH IS SEPARATION OF SPIRIT FROM BODY. SPIRITUAL DEATH IS SEPARATION OF THE SINNER FROM HIS GOD. BUT ETERNAL DEATH IS THE PERMANENT, THE IRREVOCABLE SEPARATION OF A SINNER WHOSE TIME TO REPENT AND OBEY IS NO MORE FROM HIS GOD, WHO IS DIVINE, WHO IS JUST, AND WHO IS WRATHFUL TOWARD SIN. WE BEGIN IN REVELATION 21:8 IS WHERE WE READ ABOUT THIS DEATH. BUT THE FEARFUL, THAT IS, THE COWARDLY, AND UNBELIEVING, AND THE ABOMINABLE, AND MURDERERS, AND

WHOREMONGERS OR FORNICATORS, AND SORCERERS AND IDOLATERS AND ALL LIARS SHALL HAVE THEIR PART IN THE LAKE WHICH BURNETH WITH FIRE AND BRIMSTONE, WHICH IS THE SECOND DEATH. IT IS THE SECOND DEATH. SOME PEOPLE HAVE ASKED, WHY IS THIS ONE CALLED THE SECOND DEATH? CLIFF, YOU'VE ALREADY COVERED TWO. THIS IS THE THIRD TYPE OF DEATH THAT WE'VE SEEN TOGETHER. WHY IS THIS ONE CALLED THE SECOND DEATH? I'M NOT REALLY SURE. THE BEST IDEA I HAVE TO OFFER IS THAT PERHAPS IT'S CALLED THE SECOND DEATH IN THE SENSE THAT THIS ONE, MUCH LIKE PHYSICAL DEATH, IS PERMANENT. WE KNOW AND UNDERSTAND THAT GENERALLY SPEAKING, WHEN A PERSON DIES PHYSICALLY, THAT IS PERMANENT. IT WILL NOT BE REVERSED UNTIL TIME IS NO MORE, UNTIL THE END OF TIME. WELL, THE SECOND DEATH, HELL FIRE, IS SO PERMANENT IT'S ETERNAL, AND SO PERHAPS THAT IS THE REASON WHY IT IS CALLED SECOND IN THAT SENSE. LET'S COUPLE WHAT WE JUST NOTICED WITH WHAT WE FIND IN MATTHEW 25:46. AND THESE SHALL GO AWAY INTO EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT; BUT THE RIGHTEOUS INTO LIFE ETERNAL. WHAT WE NEED TO BE CAREFUL TO POINT OUT IS THAT DEATH, REMEMBER, DOES NOT MEAN A CEASING OF EXISTENCE. DEATH, THE ONE CONCEPT THAT IS ALWAYS CONTAINED IN IT IS SIMPLY THAT OF SEPARATION. AND SO WHEN WE SPEAK OF PHYSICAL DEATH, THAT PERSON HASN'T CEASED TO EXIST. WHEN WE SPEAK OF SPIRITUAL DEATH, THAT PERSON HASN'T CEASED TO EXIST. AND BY THE SAME TOKEN, WHEN WE READ OF EVERLASTING PUNISHMENT OR ETERNAL DEATH, IF YOU WILL, THOSE PITIABLE SOULS DO NOT CEASE TO EXIST. IN FACT, THAT WORD PUNISHMENT THERE IN MATTHEW 25:46 WILL NOT ALLOW FOR ANNIHILATION. THAT EXACT GREEK WORD IS ONLY USED TWO TIMES IN THAT EXACT FORM. IT'S ONLY USED TWO TIMES IN THE ENTIRE NEW TESTAMENT, AND THE OTHER OCCURRENCE IN THE OLD KING JAMES IS TRANSLATED TORMENT. THIS IS A WORD THAT SUGGESTS OR INDICATES CONSCIOUS PUNISHMENT. IN OTHER WORDS, THESE LOST SOULS, THEY STILL WILL EXIST FOREVER AND EVER IN A CONSCIOUS EXISTENCE; BUT THEY WILL BE PUNISHED FOREVER AND EVER. AND THUS, THEY ARE SEPARATED FROM GOD, AND WE'LL SEE THAT IN A COUPLE OF MORE PASSAGES, BUT THEY STILL EXIST, AND THEY'RE CONSCIOUS AND THEY'RE AWARE OF THEIR PUNISHMENT, THEIR TORMENT. THE REASON FOR THIS, LOOK AT 2 CORINTHIANS 4:18. PAUL SAID, WHILE WE LOOK NOT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN, BUT AT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN; FOR THE THINGS WHICH ARE SEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR PHYSICAL BODIES, THEY ARE TEMPORAL; BUT THE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT SEEN, FOR EXAMPLE, OUR SPIRITS, THEY ARE ETERNAL. AND SO THE SPIRIT OF MAN IS ETERNAL, REGARDLESS OF WHETHER OR NOT HE OBEYS GOD OR WHETHER HE REJECTS GOD. HIS UNSEEN SPIRIT IS STILL ETERNAL. AND SO WE CLOSE WITH THIS PASSAGE IN 2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9, IN FLAMING FIRE, TAKING VENGEANCE ON THEM THAT KNOW NOT GOD AND THAT OBEY NOT THE GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, WHO SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH EVERLASTING DESTRUCTION AWAY FROM THE PRESENCE OF THE LORD AND AWAY FROM THE GLORY OF HIS POWER. MORE LITERAL TRANSLATIONS WOULD SUPPLY THAT WORD AWAY, AGAIN EMPHASIZING ETERNAL SEPARATION.

JAMES >> LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THE GOSPEL BROADCASTING NETWORK HAS JUST BROUGHT YOU PREACHING THE GOSPEL WITH BROTHER CLIFF GOODWIN. IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION RELATIVE TO ANYTHING THAT'S BEEN TAUGHT, OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE A CD OR A TAPE OF THE MESSAGE, JUST CALL THE TOLL-FREE NUMBER ON YOUR SCREEN. BE HAPPY TO SEND IT TO YOU. AND BY THE WAY, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO STUDY THE BIBLE PRIVATELY IN YOUR OWN HOME, WE OFFER FREE A SET OF FIVE STUDIES, AND WE'D BE HAPPY TO SEND THESE TO YOU AT NO COST AT ALL, AND IT WOULD BE OF GREAT ADVANTAGE. STUDY YOUR BIBLE, LEARN THE TRUTH, AND OBEY THE GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST. IT WILL HAVE TO DO WITH YOUR ETERNAL DESTINY.

WE APPRECIATE CLIFF, THE EXCELLENT JOB THAT HE DID IN THE PRESENTATION OF TRUTH. TAKE ADVANTAGE OF IT. MAY GOD BLESS.

CLIFF >> THANK YOU FOR BEING WITH ME TODAY. WE'VE HAD A VERY GRAVE AND A VERY SOBERING STUDY TOGETHER, BUT ENDING ON GOOD NEWS, REMEMBER THAT JESUS DIED. HE DIED IN ORDER THAT YOU AND I MIGHT LIVE ETERNALLY. VISIT THE CHURCH OF CHRIST IN YOUR COMMUNITY AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS GOSPEL.

>> (SINGING)