

What does God do to the unjust? *2Pet 2:9* _____

We saw in *Ac 24:15* that there is to be a “resurrection of the unjust” and this is identified with the “second resurrection” in *Rev 20:1-6*. These people will stand before the Great White Throne. After the judgment they will be cast into the lake of fire for eternity. *Rev 20:11-15*.

N.B. The lake of fire was prepared for the devil and his angels, *Mat 25:41*. God never intended for people to go there but those who refuse to turn to Jesus, automatically link themselves with the devil. By their own choice they share his destiny.

O death, where is thy sting? O grave where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

1Cor 15:55-57.

No 25

CHRISTIAN LIFE BIBLE COURSE

Study Twenty five: Death

Heb 2:15 describes the “normal” attitude of people towards death - “through fear of death all their lifetime subject to bondage.” What is one appointment that every person will keep? *Heb 9:27*.

We will study what the Bible says about death.

THE ORIGIN OF DEATH

As far as the Bible is concerned there are two kinds of death – spiritual death and physical death – and both have the same origin.

Death entered the human race as a direct result of sin, or the rejection of God’s rule. Complete the following: *Gen 2:17* “...for in the day you eat _____

What is the result of sin? *Jam 1:15* _____

Adam and Eve did not die physically when they ate of the forbidden fruit; they died spiritually. How does *Eph 2:1* describe this state?

Eventually physical death also became the common experience of mankind as a result of his disobedience to God.... a process of deterioration had begun in the human race!

DEATH AND THE CHRISTIAN

What was one thing that Jesus did on the Cross for us with regard to death? *Heb 2:9* _____

Some Christians appear to have mistaken views of death as it relates to them, believing either that all life is extinguished until the

resurrection, or that they will enter into an unconscious sleep in the grave. We will consider some Bible descriptions of death in order to establish the truth on this matter.

1. **When a believer dies he is said to be with “Christ.”** Read *Ac 7:55-60*. What did Stephen call out as he was being stoned?

In *2Cor 5:8*, Paul speaks about death. When a Christian is “absent from the body” he is _____

In *Phil 1:20-24* Paul describes death as “gain” He said “I have a desire to depart and _____ which is far better.”

Christ is not extinct or in a “soul sleep”. He is very much alive in heaven! In *2Tim 4:6* how does Paul describe his approaching death? _____

2. **Christian death is to “put off” the earthly body.** In *2Cor 5:1*, how does Paul describe our earthly body? _____

He is emphasising the fact that our present life is but a pilgrimage. At death this earthly tent is “dissolved” (dismantled). *2Pet 1:13,14* uses this expression again. Notice that death is a **putting off** of this tent, not a going to sleep in it.

Complete this from *Gen 3:19*, (the destiny of our earthly bodies”): “.....for dust you are _____”

3. **Christian death is to “sleep” as far as this world is concerned.** The following scriptures to do with death, referred to as “sleep”, will show that this description is made from the world’s point of view – i.e. a person who has died is as

uninvolved in the business, turmoil and suffering of this world as a person who is asleep.
1Thes 4:14; 1Thes 5:10; 1Cor 15:20,51,52.

4. **Christian death is to be “absent from the body”,** *2Cor 5:8*, while we await the resurrection. This state of being absent from the body is an interim state only. We know that it is a “better” state than life on earth, even though it is not the ultimate in God’s plan. *Phil 1:21,23*. The Bible declares that all the dead are to be raised – regardless of how and where the body was buried – see *Jn 5:28,29; Rev 20:12,13; Ac 24:15*.

When the Christian is raised from the dead what will his/her resurrection body be like? *Phil 3:21* _____

5. **God and the death of the Christian.** How does God view the death of a believer? *Ps 116:15* _____

How does God help the believer at the time of death? *Ps 23:4* _____

DEATH AND THE NON – CHRISTIAN

We saw that in the case of the Christian, death is not an unconscious state; and from the words of Jesus concerning the rich man and Lazarus, we may conclude that this is true for the non-Christian also, *Lk 16:19-31*.

Where did the rich man go when he was buried? *v22,23* _____ (“Hades”, means the “place of departed spirits”.) Notice that this is a place of full consciousness, *Is 14:9,10*, where there is torment, regret and sorrow. What does God do for those who are godly? *2Pet 2:9*
