

CALL to PRAYER - Thank God for Jesus who holds the keys of death - Rev. 1:18

Intro - Today is part 2 of the series *Life, Death & Life after Death*. Last week we defined human life. (What are we? What does it mean to be human?) Scripture says God created us with a unique dignity...IOG (unique capacity to reflect God in life and by the kind of life He gave us). There is also a unity to the way God formed the parts of our humanity. We are 3 parts rolled into 1 person. God made us with souls & spirits that are intertwined with our bodies. We are each an individual unified human – a fleshly body braided together with a distinctive soul (psyche) and an eternal spirit. We are a rational & eternal consciousness connected to a physical body. This immaterial aspect of our makeup is what animates and enlivens our material body. The kind of life God has made us with is very special. Being made in the IOG we have an eternal kind life. We are made to live forever. This brings us to our topic today – DEATH. How do we square the universal reality of death with the Biblical truth of the IOG and that we are created for life...eternal life? The dilemma of death is a big problem in life. *Why Is There Death? What Is Death?*

James 2:26 - Life, Death & Life After Death (Part 2)

WHY IS THERE DEATH?

- The problem of evil and “bad things” is a common struggle with which people grapple.
 - Believers & unbeliever alike question “*Why is there so much bad if God is so good?*”
 - How do you reconcile a good God with a bad world?
 - Why are there: Hurricanes...tornadoes...wildfires...plane crashes...car wrecks?
 - Why did my son die in an accident and why did my brother’s wife die of cancer?
 - If God is good, why is there bad? If God made us for life why is there death?
- From the beginning it was not so
 - God made everything good. It was very good. Paradise
 - In a very good creation humanity picked a very different option.
 - We chose door #2 a world with both good & evil
 - Gen. 2:16-17
 - The complaints/vitriol/anger at God for the “bad” in our world is like a child complaining about a burned hand after his parent warned him of a hot stove.
 - We all get burned in this life (Job 14:1)but it is our fault
 - We traded a good world (Paradise) for a world full of both good & evil
- Death is an invited intruder into our existence
 - Rom. 5:12
 - To understand our broken environment, you must factor in the Fall
 - Paradise is lost and creation is cursed. Paradise is not possible in our fallen world. Utopia
 - Catechism questions in the bulletin
 - The estate of sin and misery (“What state are you from? Girl – “from the state of...”)
 - Sin always brings misery
 - What is the misery...?
 - The principle of death permeates our existence- pain, problems, frustrations, sickness, decay...
 - We invited it...embraced it...and now have buyer’s remorse because it bit us & burned usbut it is on us

WHAT IS DEATH?

- Death is not ceasing to exist; it is just a drastic change in the type of our existence.
 - Death is the removal of the kind of life we were originally created with
 - We were created for life...an abundant kind of life...a unified kind of life
 - Death brought a different kind of life. A life infused/marred with death.
- Death is not just physical – it is also relational...environmental.... spiritualit can be eternal.
 - Adam died the day he sinned a relational death & a moral/spiritual death
 - Immediate loss of a fellowship with God the relationship died
 - Immediate loss of moral innocence innocence died...goodness died
 - Adam lived in a dying world. He was driven from Paradise
 - place of thorn, thistles, pain, suffering...God's good creation was recreated with good & evil
 - Adam died physically 930 years later
 - His soul and spirit were untethered from body which returned to dust
 - Death takes away life. (the kind of life...the abundant life we were originally made with - IOG broken)
 - All this death forewarns of an impending death...an eternal death...THE 2ND DEATH
- Death is a separation
 - It separates us relationally from God...morally from being good..environmentally from living only with good...and physically from our bodies
 - Physical death doesn't separate us from life...death separates life from our body
 - James 2:26
 - Death = the spirit leaving the body...life leaving
 - Gen. 35:18
 - Death is not life ceasing – death is life leaving
- Death is the unnatural separation and tearing away of the soul & spirit from the body
 - Physical death is an unweaving of soul & spirit from the body
 - When there is a disconnection in the union of body/soul/spirit...there is death
 - Death is not ceasing to exist; it is ceasing to exist as a unified whole
 - Death is being absent from the body.
 - Life is not extinguished – it is relinquished from the body as spirit leaves
 - Disembodied spirits are very much alive - just been unbraided from their bodies
 - Luke 23:43 Luke 23:46
 - The soul & spirit is what enliven the body.
 - The material body cannot live without the immaterial soul. But the soul & spirit can live without a body
 - The rational consciousness is disconnected from body but very much alive
- Death is a terrible thing
 - It disconnects us from who we are and from what we are made to be
 - It is an unwelcomed but invited intruder into our existence that changes the way we exist as human beings.
- Death is NOT a sovereign thing
 - Jesus embraced death and conquered death on our behalf.
 - Jesus has the keys to death. Rev. 1:18
 - Physical death will separate us from a lot of things (body...friends...family...)
 - But death cannot separate us for the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord - Rom. 8:38-39