

What Happens When I Die?

Introduction:

- A. Deuteronomy 34:5 & Hebrews 9:27
- B. *“It is vitally important that we be able to answer that question, ‘What happens when I die?’”*
- C. As we closed our series last week “Final Words” we skipped the last chapter of Deuteronomy...
- D. The conclusion of Moses reminds us that death is a reality
- E. **[Uncomfortable truth]**
- F. 2 truths – about death and what comes next:
 - I. The truth about death.
 - a. Death is not a respecter of persons. (Deut. 34:5)
 - i. Moses was a spiritual giant, but yet we see he still died.
 1. He had skilled leadership...
 2. He had good health...
 3. He had fame...
 4. He had all that any man could want in that day...
 5. And yet he died.
 - ii. The same is true for all of us...
 1. As a general rule all men die.
 2. Death comes to the rich, the poor, the tall, the short, the attractive, the ugly, the smart, the ignorant, to men, & to women...
 3. Death comes to all...
 4. **[1 in 1 people die]**
 - b. We all have an appointed day to die. (Heb. 9:27a)
 - i. We are all given a divine appointment as to the day we die.
 1. We didn't choose our birth date & we don't choose the day we die...
 2. “appointed” – Lit. = “to reserve”
 3. There is a reservation for the end of your life and there's nothing you can do to stop it.
 4. **[Expiration of milk]**
 - ii. But also notice that we are only given one shot.
 1. We die once.
 2. After our life is done, there isn't a living it over again.
 3. **[Reset button]**

4. We can't reset our lives to live it again a few more times...
5. There is life and there is death.

“This brings to the 2nd truth...”

- II. The truth about what happens next.
 - a. A judgment is waiting for us at our moment of death. (Heb. 9:27)
 - i. What is this judgment about?
 1. It is a judgment over each man's soul and his sin.
 2. *“Behold, all souls are Mine; The soul of the father As well as the soul of the son is Mine; The soul who sins shall die.”* – Ezek. 18:4
 3. It is a judgment over who will pay for your sin.
 4. And we've all sinned...
 5. Rom. 3:23
 - ii. What we have decided to do about our sin will decide the outcome of this judgment.
 1. If we die with our sins then we will pay for it in eternity.
 - a. Death in our sins means despair, condemnation, and hell.
 - b. We will receive an instant verdict when we take our last breath and we will wake up in hell.
 - c. *“The time came when the beggar died and the angels carried him to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment, he looked up and saw Abraham far away, with Lazarus by his side. So he called to him, ‘Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue, because I am in agony in this fire.’”* – Luke 16:22-24 NIV
 - d. It is a place of no second chances!
 2. **BUT** if we die with our sins forgiven, then we will spend an eternity with the Lord!

- a. For the forgiven, Jesus has paid their price of sin on the cross.
 - b. (Heb. 9:28)
 - c. The forgiven face death with hope, acquittal, and heaven
 - d. Just as hell is instant for those who die in sin, heaven is instant for those who are forgiven.
 - e. *“So we are always confident, even though we know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. For we live by believing and not by seeing. Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.” – 2 Cor. 5:6-8 NLT*
 - f. To be home with the Lord is to be where He is...Heaven!
3. There is a responsibility for us to realize on this side of eternity...
 - b. We have the freedom to choose our future before death.
 - i. Jesus tells us that we must make a choice.
 1. *“For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God’s one and only Son. And the judgment is based on this fact: God’s light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants.” – Jn. 3:16-21 NLT*

2. If we choose to believe in Jesus we will receive forgiveness for our sins and a home in heaven.
 3. But we can choose to reject forgiveness as well...
- ii. How do I believe?
 1. Many people try to make the answer to this too easy or too hard...
 2. The Bible says...
 3. *“if you confess with your mouth that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes and is justified, and with the mouth one confesses and is saved.” – Rom. 10:9-10 ESV*
 4. **[Faith is not facts]**
 5. It is trusting in the work of what He did on the cross to pay for your sins and receiving Him as the Lord or leader of your life.
 6. But be careful about your decision!
 7. *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.” – Matt. 7:21*
 8. God wants you to understand that real faith means to repent or turn your life away from sin to follow Jesus.
 9. The choice is yours, choose Jesus or choose eternal death...

Conclusion

- A. What will happen to you when you die?
- B. Chose hope!