

DEATH

I. Defining death.

- A. Two Greek words for "death" in New Testament.
 - 1. *Thanatos* - General word for "death." Get English "thanatology"- study of death.
 - 2. *Nekros* - Refers to dead body, corpse. Get English "necrology" (obituary) and "necromancy" (communication with corpses).
- B. Concepts of death.
 - 1. Annihilation, non-existence
 - 2. Termination, cessation
 - 3. Alienation, separation - Eph. 4:18
 - 4. Absence of life, deprivation of vital function
- C. "Body apart from spirit is dead" - James 2:26
- D. "Sleep" - a euphemism for death. John 11:11-13; Acts 7:60; I Thess. 4:15; I Cor. 15:6,18. Greek word *koimeterion* is base of English word "cemetery."

II. Types of death.

- A. Spiritual death - Gen. 2:17; I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12,21; Eph. 2:1,5
 - 1. Power of death - Heb. 2:14
- B. Behavioral death - Rom. 7:5; I Tim. 5:6; Heb. 6:1; 9:14; James 1:15
- C. Physical death - Gen. 5:5; Heb. 9:27
- D. Everlasting death - John 8:21,24; Rev. 2:11; 21:8

III. Introduction of death into created order.

- A. Consequence of sin - Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23
 - 1. What types of death implied?
 - 2. Apart from sin would man have "lived forever" (Gen. 3:34)? What kinds of life implied?
 - 3. Death is natural and universal in fallen mankind - Ps. 90:10; Eccl. 3:1,2; Heb. 9:27.
 - 4. Was there death prior to man's sin in plant and animal kingdoms? Entropy, degeneration, "Second Law of Thermodynamics"
- B. Man's natural fear of death - Heb. 2:15; Rom. 8:15; Ps. 23:4
- C. Power of God to deliver one to death - Deut. 32:39; I Cor. 11:30
- D. Abode of the dead
 - 1. Pre-Christian view
 - a. *Sheol* - Isa. 5:14; Hab. 2:15
 - b. Pit - Ps. 28:1; 88:4,6; Prov. 1:12; Isa. 14:15; Ezek. 31:14
 - c. Silence - Ps. 94:17; 115:17
 - d. Darkness - Job 10:21; Ps. 143:3
 - e. Destruction - Job 26:6; Ps. 88:11; Prov. 15:11
 - f. *Hades* - Greek god of underworld
 - 2. New Testament view.
 - a. References to *Hades* - Lk 16:19-31; Acts 2:27,31; Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13
 - b. Heaven - II Cor. 5:2; Col. 1:5; I Peter 1:4
 - c. Hell - Matt. 10:28; James 3:6; II Peter 2:4

- IV. Work of Jesus Christ to counteract death.
 - A. By His death He took the death consequences of sin upon Himself.
 - 1. Overcame one having power of death - Heb. 2:14
 - 2. Death no longer master - Rom. 6:9
 - 3. Death has lost its sting - I Cor. 15:55,56
 - 4. Death swallowed up in victory - I Cor. 15:54
 - 5. Death is abolished - II Tim. 1:10; I Cor. 15:26
 - B. By Christ's death the Christian is made dead
 - 1. To "old man" - Rom. 6:6
 - 2. To sin - Rom. 6:11
 - 3. To Law - Rom. 7:4,6; Gal. 2:19
 - 4. To world - Gal. 6:14
 - 5. To "flesh" - Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5; Rom. 8:13
 - C. Christ's life made available to Christian.
 - 1. Passed from death to life - John 5:24,25; I John 3:14
 - 2. Christ is our life - John 14:6; Col. 3:4; I John 5:11,12
 - 3. Eternal life - John 3:16,36
 - 4. Immortality - I Tim. 1:17; 6:16; II Tim. 1:10

- V. Christian expectations after physical death.
 - A. Continuity
 - 1. Spiritual life of Christ - John 11:25; I Thess 4:14
 - 2. Individuality, personality in soul - James 5:20
 - 3. Embodiment - Rom. 8:23
 - a. Not naked "disembodied spirits" - II Cor. 5:3
 - b. Not homeless - II Cor. 5:1,2; II Pet. 1:14
 - c. Like Christ - I John 3:2; Phil. 3:21
 - B. Discontinuity
 - 1. Change of body in resurrection.
 - a. fleshly/glorified - I Cor. 15:39,43
 - b. earthly/heavenly - I Cor. 15:40
 - c. perishable/imperishable - I Cor. 15:42,53,54
 - d. dishonor/glory - I Cor. 15:43
 - e. weakness/power - I Cor. 15:43
 - f. natural/spiritual - I Cor. 15:44,46
 - g. mortal/immortal - I Cor. 15:53,54
 - h. corruption/incorruption - Rom. 8:21
 - i. temporal/eternal - II Cor. 4:18; 5:1
 - 2. Change of environment or realm.
 - a. earth/heaven - I Cor. 15:48; Rev. 21:1
 - b. absent from body, present with Lord - II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23
 - C. Transition
 - 1. "Graduation to glory"
 - 2. Stepping through the door into new place.
 - 3. Scottish tombstone: "Ta Ta The Noo" - (Good-bye for Now)

- VI. Other issues associated with physical death.
 - A. Death penalty, capital punishment - Lev. 24:17; Deut. 35:31
 - B. Euthanasia - "good-death" - changing meaning of term.
 - C. Near-death, out-of-body experiences, whether euphoric or foreboding.
 - D. Disposal of physical body. Burial or cremation? Disintegration, decomposition, oxidization, corruption. Eccl. 12:7
 - E. Mourning, grief - Eccl. 3:4; I Thess. 4:13. Not despair - II Cor. 4:8