**What Happens Next? Death**

**Noel - when young - pray that I wake up - what is heaven is not real?**

**Many are afraid of death - suffering that may come – the unknown - leaving family – saying goodbye – Are you ready to face the afterlife?**

**I've seen family and dear friends die - I faced death in 2009**

**Top fears of death: Shark attack - airplane crash - drowning - falling - murdered - terminal disease – avg lifespan 77.2**

**Front-page stories remind us of its daily victims… From war, public shootings, car accidents, domestic violence, disease.**

**Many don’t think they will die anytime soon and ignore it afraid to talk about it. People weirded out by caskets – Fear Factor.**

**2 Timothy 1:7 - (NKJV) For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind. (you do not have to be afraid of death)**

**Many have an unhealthy obsession w/ death & darkness movies**

**BTW movies watched by under 21 - more likely to develop odd dreams, depression, suicidal thoughts, anger, anti-social behavior, and a fear of death - Halloween feeds the curiosity.**

**Why are we drawn to darkness & curiosity with evil? sin nature**

**ie. Dramas as a youth pastor - what did the teens want to play...**

**\* WHAT Happens when we die? The Afterlife Test (other page). We will take a look at these answers Biblically over the next couple weeks.**

**What really are the odds of death? How close are you?**

* **Just under a 1/3 of all children die before birth due to Abortion**
* **1 of 100 people die at birth = Statistical Abstract of the United States**
* **Odds of dying before teens – 1/74 (white male) – 1/40 (black male)**
* **1 in 24 people will die from an injury before they die of old age**
* **Here’s the big one - 1 in 1 will die – studies are conclusive.**

**It is a miracle that you’re here today!!!**

**But is it healthy to think about death? Ecclesiastes 7:2 It is better to spend your time at funerals than at parties. For you are going to die, and you should think about it while there is still time. 3 Sorrow is better than laughter, for sadness has a refining influence on us. 4 A wise person thinks much about death, while the fool thinks only about having a good time now.**

**Death should cause us to ask questions about life after death… not to be obsessed with the unknown**

**The next few weeks we’re going to take a look at death and life after death and attempt to answers some of the questions…**

**Some look at death and get angry at God - how could God allow it?**

**Some never see the light of day from their mother’s womb, while others live long lives. Some die young while others live to be 100…**

**WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS ABOUT DEATH**

1. **We were designed for life, not death**

**We were created to never die - it was never the plan - this is key**

**God created Adam and Eve - places them in a perfect place with only one boundary. They disobeyed and a string of consequences followed**

**Genesis 3:17 To Adam he said, “Because you listened to your wife (something funny in there) and ate fruit from the tree about which I commanded you, ‘You must not eat from it,’ “Cursed is the ground (the earth will not cooperate easily) because of you; through painful toil you will eat food from it all the days of your life. 18 It will produce thorns and thistles for you, and you will eat the plants of the field. (life will work against you) 19 By the sweat of your brow you will eat your food until you return to the ground, since from it you were taken; for dust you are and to dust you will return.” (You're going to work hard to pull the weeds of life, and then you will die - Adam brought death and struggles into our life. You’re nothing but dust – not butt dust)**

**21 The Lord God made garments of skin for Adam and his wife and clothed them. (that is a great pic of Jesus) 22 And the Lord God said, “The man has now become like one of us, knowing good and evil. He must not be allowed to reach out his hand and take also from the tree of life and eat, and live forever.” (Why not? That seems unfair) 23 So the Lord God banished him from the Garden of Eden to work the ground from which he had been taken. 24 After he drove the man out, he placed on the east side of the Garden of Eden cherubim and a flaming sword flashing back and forth to guard the way to the tree of life.**

**Why not? Basically - I don't want you to live forever w/ all that suffering - God's mercy allows death - so pain will be limited**

**(NLT) Romans 5:12 When Adam sinned, sin entered the world. Adam’s sin brought death, so death spread to everyone, for everyone sinned.**

**We were designed to walk with God – and walk without sin - That is why it is so painful - and undesirable.**

**Death was not God’s plan when he created the first people… Romans 8:21 All creation anticipates the day when it will join God’s children in glorious freedom from death and decay. 22 For we know that all creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. 23 And even we Christians… also groan to be released from pain and suffering. We, too, wait anxiously for that day when God will give us our full rights as his children, including the new bodies he has promised us.**

**We die because either we are decaying, or people are destructive**

**to self and to others - both a result of a fallen world**

**What about sickness and disease? Why so much pain and why do the innocent die every day! Understanding Death & Disease:**

**People like to yell - Why God did you give me this…? He didn’t**

**1. God did not create disease…**

**They emerge as the world continues to decay**

**Body getting old running down, genetic determination, disease, viruses - results of a fallen world**

**2. No one is really innocent…**

**Because of the sin nature… we are all susceptible**

**3. Lifestyle choices can result in quicker decay**

**Like drinking, unhealthy eating, promiscuity, drug use, fighting, violent or dangerous lifestyles**

**Galatians 6:7 … don’t be misled. Remember that you can’t ignore God and get away with it. You will always reap what you sow! 8 Those who live only to satisfy their own desires will reap the consequences of decay and death. But those who live to please the Spirit will reap everlasting life from the Spirit.**

1. **Suffering, pain, and death are a reality of a fallen world**

**As a result of a fallen world - we have to deal with sinful people and disease, pain and suffering**

**And because we were created to love deeply and care for others - with that kind of love, pain will be impossible to avoid**

**(friend of Jesus, Lazarus, died) John 11:32 When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” 33 When Jesus saw her weeping, and the Jews who had come along with her also weeping, he was deeply moved in spirit and troubled. (though he knew he was going to raise him up - his heart was hurting for them) 34 “Where have you laid him?” he asked. “Come and see, Lord,” they replied. 35 Jesus wept. (Jesus was in pain for his friend) 36 Then the Jews said, “See how he loved him!”**

**You would think he would not need to cry – knowing what was to come - yet still He hurt. Truth is - love will bring pain.**

**There’s no verse or cheer up cliché - Even Jesus w/ perfect faith and knowledge can’t avoid pain in the face of death.**

**I can't tell you anything today that will make pain and suffering go away in this life.**

**As long as we are here - as long as we love - we will feel the sting of pain, suffering & death - because we were never designed to experience it or have it - so it hurts.**

1. **The tighter we hold on to life, the harder it will be to let go**

**The tighter we hold on to this life, the less we understand the next**

**Matthew 6:19 “Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. 20 But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where moths and vermin do not destroy, and where thieves do not break in and steal.**

**Look around - this is not our home - we are passing thru**

**Life's not about how many tickets and rides can we ride**

**Look at your body - is it getting better? No matter how long you work out, 40yrs from now you'll be flabby - your new car will break down - No matter the improvements, your home will fall apart - this world is not our home - this is not our treasure.**

**Think about his - every person healed in the bible & by Jesus... still ended up dying... no one lived forever on earth - because this is not our home - (we are foreigners, travelers)**

**The more we make this world, heaven, the farther we get from experiencing true heaven, true treasure, peace, hope - true love**

**Matthew 16:26 What good will it be for someone to gain the whole world, yet forfeit their soul? Or what can anyone give in exchange for their soul?**

**The Rope - Imagine this rope is your timeline of existence – the red is your time on earth / your life - your birth - we strive to achieve things for this life and then we die... then eternity!**

* **Blows me way how some of you, all you think about is this (R)**
* **You work & save to enjoy this little part (R) – what about this (E)**

**What’s really crazy: the bible says that what happens here (R) determines how I will exist here (E)**

* **Why do we work so hard for this (R) and worry so much about this**
* **Why store up for this (R) - this is what you're created for - eternity**

**Jesus is challenging us – run / strive / pursue (E) and use (R) for (E)**

**Colossians 3:1 Since, then, you have been raised with Christ, set your hearts on things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. 2 Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things. 3 For you died (to self and this life), and your life is now hidden with Christ in God.**

**Jesus talked about this more than anything else... the kingdom**

1. **Death is certain, but it is not the end**

**The survival rate for this life is - ZERO - are you prepared for Death? If there is anything to be prepared for its this...**

**Hebrews 9:27-28 - Just as man is destined to die once, (how many times - the lie of reincarnation and ghosts, and PDE - these are tools of the enemy to distract you from the truth) and after that to face judgment, (Judgment – more on this next week) so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many people; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

**Physical body die but the real you, the soul, lives forever.**

**Scripture tells us - The soul and the body separate**

**The glove - One day we will die & our body will be left here - in a grave, on a battlefield, in an ocean, as ashes... but that is not us.**

1. **Our souls will separate from our physical body**

**Matthew 10:28 Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather, be afraid of the One who can destroy both soul and body in hell.**

**Don’t fear people but live under a reverent fear of God.**

**When you have your funeral – and you will have one – and everyone goes to aunt Gernie house to eat cake and coffee – you will be more alive than ever. Take gloves off and toss it on the ground, that’s us. Then what?**

**I want to read something – but let’s stand and read it…**

**2 Cor 5:1-10 (NLT) 1 For we know that when this earthly tent we live in is taken down (that is, when we die and leave this earthly body), we will have a house in heaven, an eternal body made for us by God himself and not by human hands. 2 We grow weary in our present bodies, and we long to put on our heavenly bodies like new clothing. 3 For we will put on heavenly bodies; we will not be spirits without bodies. (not ghosts – or naked angels playing harps) 4 While we live in these earthly bodies, we groan and sigh, but it’s not that we want to die and get rid of these bodies that clothe us. Rather, we want to put on our new bodies so that these dying bodies will be swallowed up by life. 5 God himself has prepared us for this, and as a guarantee he has given us his Holy Spirit. 6 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. 7 For we live by believing and not by seeing. 8 Yes, we are fully confident, and we would rather be away from these earthly bodies, (absent from the body) for then we will be at home with the Lord. (So, until then what do we do?) 9 So whether we are here in this body or away from this body, our goal is to (make money, be youtube famous, record # of likes, have a house with shiplap) please him. 10 For we must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in this earthly body.**

**What is this judgement? I thought we all go to Heaven??**

**The moment you slip from this life into the next – you will either enjoy a personal welcome from Christ – OR – you will face a glimpse of your future of your eternal gloom.**

**Truth is today**

**You are dying but the tree of life is available – Jesus is the tree of life!**

**The reality is this body will have its day in the ground… but there is hope in the face of death – through Jesus Christ.**

**When Jesus came to earth – he was born to die! When he was walking the earth – he saw his death… it was his destiny.**

**Romans 5:17 - The sin of this one man, Adam, caused death to rule over us, but all who receive God’s wonderful, gracious gift of righteousness will live in triumph over sin and death through the one, Jesus Christ.**

**Jesus conquered death and gives you the ability to do so too.**

**You don’t need to be afraid of the casket… it is only a bed for a shell…**

**You can have peace about death today whether you’re dead or alive**

* **Do you truly know Jesus Christ?**
* **Are you living for today or for eternity?**

**Next Week?**

**What happens after death? Is there a real Hell?**