

WHEN WE DIE, THEN WHAT?

1 Corinthians 15

Introduction: The question was asked in the Old Testament by a man named Job: *"If a man dies, will he live again?"* History has proven as well as our own experiences that death is certain. The longer we live, the more we realize that we shall die but then what? We sing hymns about a resurrection and having new bodies and new lives and living with Jesus in a place called Heaven, hear sermons about heaven and who will be there and who won't as well as sermons about another place called hell and the torments that go with that place. What is it like after we die?

I. IS THERE LIFE AFTER DEATH? (1 Corinthians 15:3-5)

1. **YES !** The resurrection of Jesus proves there is life after death.
 - Did Jesus really die? Some ask. Well, what if a man you knew was beaten 39 times with a heavy leather whip, then nailed to a cross, hung him there for six hours, ran a spear through his side, then embalmed him with 75 pounds of spices and linen, put him in an airless tomb for three day. What do you think would happen to that man?
2. A youngster was watching a dramatic presentation of the Easter story and all through the crucifixion he was silent but when Jesus walked out of the tomb the youngster jumped up clapped his hands and excitedly declared, "he's alive.." Then hugged his mother.
3. When a man steps out of his own grave, he can do anything he wants and he is anybody he says he is.
4. The long time leader of a great nation died but had planned his own funeral with great music, a lot of celebration, finally a military group drew their bugles and instead of blowing "taps" which is usually what is played at a funeral, they played "reveille." It was good night at the funeral service, but good morning where the dead man had gone.
5. Jesus demonstrated life after death to hundreds at once.

II. IF THERE IS LIFE AFTER DEATH, THEN WHAT IS IT LIKE? (1 Corinthians 15:20)

1. *"Christ indeed has been raised from the dead..the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep." We shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is..."*
2. What is life after death like? Look at Jesus! What did He do? What was He like?
 - First there was a separation from the body. Jesus told the thief that they would be together before the day ended.
 - *"We are confident..to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord."*
 - As the hand is in the glove, so the spirit of man is in the body. Remove the hand and only a limp glove is left. Remove the spirit and only the body is left.
 - We go directly to be with the Lord (Christians, that is). Not to some place to wait, not to another life in a reincarnated body.

- Secondly there is a resurrected body.
 - After three days Jesus came back to His body and that had been changed somewhat.
 - God made the first human out of the dust of the earth. He won't have any trouble remaking our bodies, no matter what happened to it down here.
 - Jesus raised Lazarus from the grave after four days in a tomb. It doesn't matter whether it has been four days or 400 years, or 4,000 years. Upon Jesus' command our bodies will come out of wherever they are.
 - Why do we take so many precautions with our dead, sealed vaults, lined coffins, etc. Someone said that what Christians need is a "flip-top box."
3. Jesus displayed His resurrected body to over 500 people.
 - Jesus ate, drank with no worry about what He ate or how it might affect His new body.
 - We're not going to float around on a cloud playing a harp either.
 - Jesus made campfire, cooked fish He had caught, walked along the shore with His friends.
 - Heaven is a place of activity, meeting people, learning things and being reunited.

III. HOW CAN WE HAVE THIS HEAVENLY ETERNAL LIFE?

1. If life in heaven after death were for sale, how much would you pay for it?
 - If there are things down here you can't afford, then there is no way you could afford to purchase eternal life in heaven. If it were for sale.
2. Blood is the purchase price. Pure, sinless blood and sadly we don't have any of that for we forfeited our rights to have eternal life because of our sin. **GOOD NEWS THOUGH,** Jesus has already stepped in and bought for each of us eternal life.
 - We can't earn it, can't buy it, but we can still have it..by believing in Jesus Christ.

CONCLUSION:

1. Believe it or not but there are a couple reasons why some people refuse God's fantastic offer.
 - One is a love for sin. It has to be given up but if one loves this world more than God's offer and won't give up sin, then the music at his/her funeral will be TAPS which is so long, good by, that's it, THE END.
 - The other reason for not accepting God's offer of eternal life in heaven is personal pride.
 - Some feel they **MUST** help God in some way. They won't take anything that is free from anybody. So the music at his/her funeral will be only TAPS also.
2. There is life after death, eternal life and it will be spent in one of two places: The place called Heaven which God has prepared for those who believe in His Son, Jesus. The other place is called Hell which God prepared for Satan and all his fallen angels and it is a place of torment, not a paradise like Heaven.
3. God leaves it up to us to choose which place we want to go to upon our death. Where have you chosen to go?