

O Death, Where Is Your Vocabulary?!

John 11:25-26 and various Scriptures

Sunday, June 24, 2018

Introduction:

Jesus' curious statements:

John 11:25-26 (NASB95)

Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?"

How do these ideas fit together?

Jesus is introducing His followers to a radical reconfiguration of the concepts of life and death. What Jesus says here, in seed form, is born out more fully in the rest of the New Testament.

A survey of the New Testament's teaching on death:

I. Unbelievers are dead.

- All are spiritually dead until they are in Christ.
Ephesians 2:1-3
Ephesians 2:5
Colossians 2:13
- Their works are dead.
Hebrews 6:1
Hebrews 9:14
- Their faith is dead.
James 2:17, 26
- Churchgoers can be dead.
1Timothy 5:6

- Churches can be dead.
Revelation 3:1
- The gospel is preached to the dead.
1Peter 4:6
- Unbelievers do not possess life.
1John 3:15
1John 5:12
- The dead will be judged.
1Peter 4:5
2Timothy 4:1
Revelation 20:12

II. **Unbelievers will die.**

- Romans 5:12, 14
- Romans 5:21
- 1Corinthians 15:22
- Hebrews 9:27

III. **Unbelievers will die again.**

- Revelation 2:11
- Revelation 20:6,14
- Revelation 21:8

IV. **Believers died already.**

- Believers died at conversion.
Colossians 3:3
- Believers died with Christ.
2Timothy 2:11
Philippians 3:10
Romans 6:3, 4, 5, 8
- Believers died in relationship to sin.
Romans 6:2, 6, 7
1Peter 2:24

- Believers died in relationship to the Law.
Romanas 7:4, 6
Galatians 2:19
- Believers died in relationship to the world.
Galatians 6:14
Colossians 2:20
- The old “you” is no more.
Galatians 2:20
Galatians 5:24
Romans 6:6
Ephesians 4:22-24
Colossians 3:9-10

V. **Eternal life begins at new birth.**

- John 5:24
- John 8:51
- Romans 6:4, 5, 8, 11, 13
- Romans 8:2
- Colossians 2:12
- Colossians 3:1

VI. **A believer’s life is a kind of death.**

- Death to self is the starting point for following Jesus.
Mark 8:34
- Considering oneself dead to sin is an ongoing practice.
Romans 6:11
Colossians 3:5
- Putting to death the deeds of the body identifies one as a child of God.
Romans 8:13
- Believers are dead to the world in which they live.
Galatians 6:14
- Believers can find themselves in danger of death because of their loyalty to Christ.
2Corinthians 1:9
2Corinthians 2:16
2Corinthians 4:11
2Corinthians 6:9

2Corinthians 11:23
Revelation 2:10

- Daily discipleship is one of death-to-self.
Luke 9:23

VII. **Believers still face physical death.**

*except for those who are alive at the rapture!

1Thessalonians 4:13-18
John 14:3
1Corinthians 15:51-52

- Romans 14:7-9
- Romans 8:38
- Philippians 1:20
- 1Thessalonians 4:16
- Hebrews 11:13
- Romans 8:28

VIII. **A believer's death is different.**

The language of believers' departure from this life reflects a change in believers' relationship to death.

- 1) A believer's physical death can be called "death", being "killed", etc.
 - 1) This often occurs when death is spoken of generally (1Cor 7:9; Php 1:20).
 - 2) This often occurs when martyrdom / persecution are in view (Rev 2:13).
- 2) often, a believer's physical death is referred to by "euphemism".
 - 1) "go out of this world" (1Cor 5:10).
 - 2) "sleep" (1Cor 11:30; 15:6,18,20,51; 1Thess 4:13,14,15; 5:10)
 - 3) "surrender my body..." (1Cor 13:3).
 - 4) seeing and knowing "now" and "then" (1Cor 13:12).
 - 5) "sown" and "raised" (1Cor 15: 42-44).
 - 6) "earthly" and "heavenly" man (1Cor 15:47-48).
 - 7) inheriting "the kingdom of God"; inheriting "the imperishable" (1Cor 15:50).

¹ By "euphemism", I do not mean that the Bible uses figures of speech to "soften" the idea of death, as in "He's in a better place now." Rather, the death-blow dealt to Death by Jesus has rendered physical death to be substantially different for those who are in Christ. Death has actually changed!

- 8) "be changed" (1Cor 15:51).
- 9) "put on the imperishable" (1Cor 15:53).
- 10) "put on immortality" (1Cor 15:53).
- 11) "outer man is decaying" (2Cor 4:16).
- 12) "tent... torn down" (2Cor 5:1).
- 13) acquiring our "building from God" (2Cor 5:21).
- 14) being "clothed with our dwelling from heaven" (2Cor 5:2).
- 15) being no longer naked (2Cor 5:3).
- 16) "clothed" (2Cor 5:4).
- 17) "what is mortal will be swallowed up by life" (2Cor 5:4).
- 18) "absent from the body" (2Cor 5:8-9).
- 19) "at home with the Lord" (2Cor 5:8-9).
- 20) "to depart" (Php 1:23).
- 21) "be with Christ" (Php 1:23).²
- 22) "dead in Christ" (1Thess 4:16).
- 23) "living together with Him" (1Thess 5:10).
- 24) "being poured out as a drink offering" (2Ti 4:6).
- 25) "departure" (2Ti 4:6; 2Pet 1:15).
- 26) "have fought the fight" (2Ti 4:7).
- 27) "have finished the course" (2Ti 4:7).
- 28) "have kept the faith" (2Ti 4:7).
- 29) "rescue... from every evil deed" (2Ti 4:18).
- 30) "bring me safely to His heavenly kingdom" (2Ti 4:18).
- 31) "go out to Him outside the camp" [possibly] (Heb 13:13).
- 32) "seeking the city which is to come" (Heb 13:14).
- 33) "the time of your stay on earth" (1Pet 1:17).
- 34) "the rest of the time in the flesh" (1Pet 4:2).
- 35) "entrust their souls to a faithful Creator" (1Pet 4:19).
- 36) being perfected, confirmed, strengthened, and established (1Pet 5:10).
- 37) "entrance into the eternal kingdom" (2Pet 1:11).
- 38) "as long as I am in this earthly dwelling" (2Pet 1:13).
- 39) "laying aside of my earthly dwelling" (2Pet 1:14).
- 40) "overcomes" (1Jn 5:4-5; Rev 2:7,11,17,26; 3:5,12,21; 12:11; 21:7).
- 41) made to "stand in the presence of His glory" (Jude24).
- 42) "come out of the Great Tribulation" (Rev 7:14).
- 43) "perseverance and the faith of the saints" (Rev 13:10; 14:12).³
- 44) "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Rev 14:13).
- 45) "rest from their labors" (Rev 14:13).

² which is "very much better"!

³ Both "kills" and "be killed" in this Rev 13:10 are aorist passive infinitives and should be translated as such.

IX. **Death itself will die.**

- Acts 2:24
- Romans 6:9
- 1Corinthians 15:26
- 1Corinthians 15:54-57
- Hebrews 2:14-15
- Revelation 1:18
- Revelation 20:14
- Revelation 21:4