

## **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).

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<sup>1</sup> 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).<sup>2</sup>
- 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).<sup>3</sup>
- 44) "blessed are the dead who die in the Lord" (Rev 14:13).
- 45) "rest from their labors" (Rev 14:13).

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<sup>2</sup> which is "very much better"!

<sup>3</sup> 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