

Chapter 1 : What Happens When You Die? 5 Big Questions About Death Answered

The innumerable recorded and researched cases of past life experiences clearly point to life after death. Various institutions have performed research about the afterlife, near death experiences, or about consciousness after death, finding proof that life continues after death. There have been.

What Happens After Death? A Christian Perspective , October 6, Dr. Zukeran brings a biblical perspective to a question we all would like to know: He looks to the Bible to determine what we can and cannot know about our life after we pass out of our present bodies. Although many avoid the issue, we must sooner or later address the question. There are many competing answers to this question. Atheists believe that at death one ceases to exist. There is no afterlife or eternal soul that continues in eternity. All there is to look forward to is our inevitable death, the future death of mankind, and the universe. It is in the face of this future that the atheist must seek to find meaning and purpose for his own existence. The Eastern and New Age religions that hold to a pantheistic worldview teach that one goes through an endless cycle of reincarnation until the cycle is broken and the person becomes one with the divine. What form a person becomes in the next life depends on the quality of life lived in the previous life. When one unites with the divine, he ceases to exist as an individual, but becomes part of the divine life force, like a drop of water returning to the ocean. Those who hold to the animistic or tribal religions believe that after death the human soul remains on the earth or travels to join the departed spirits of the ancestors in the underworld, also called the realm of the shadows. For eternity they wander in darkness, experiencing neither joy nor sorrow. Some of the spirits of the deceased may be called upon to aid or torment those on earth. Islam teaches that at the end of history, God will judge the works of all men. Those whose good deeds outweigh their bad deeds will enter into paradise. The rest will be consigned to hell. The Koran teaches that in paradise men will be drinking wine and entertained by heavenly maidens and that they may take several of these maidens for their wives. The Bible gives us the true view of what happens after death. However, many Christians have a misunderstanding of the afterlife. In this article, we will examine some popular misconceptions of what lies beyond the grave and perceive what the Bible teaches. Christians can be assured that death is not something to be feared. Instead, at death we arrive home in heaven. To live means we exist in a foreign country. Death has lost its sting and now is a victory through the resurrection of Jesus our Lord.

Near Death Experiences For the past thirty years, thousands of people have reported experiencing what are called near death experiences NDEs. NDEs are encounters where a person, being in full awareness, leaves the body and enters another world. Such experiences have resulted in life transformation in many individuals. What are we to make of these accounts? Let us understand that NDEs come from those who have been clinically dead, not biologically dead. In clinical death, external life signs such as consciousness, pulse, and breathing cease. In such cases, biological death results if no steps are taken to reverse the process. Biological death, on the other hand, is not affected by any amount of attention, for it is physically irreversible. Some occur when the patient is comatose, very close to death, or pronounced clinically dead. There have not been any cases of biological or irreversible death for a significant amount of time followed by a resurrection. What has intrigued scientists and theologians in their study of NDEs is that many of the patients have similar experiences. These include leaving the body and watching from above as doctors work on it, entering a dark tunnel, seeing light, seeing others, meeting a spirit being, experiencing peace, and then returning to the body. Scientists and doctors from various worldviews have sought to explain this phenomenon. Those from an atheistic worldview have sought to give naturalistic explanations. Their explanations range from hallucination induced by medication, chemical reactions the brain experiences in near death crises, previous encounters long forgotten, and others. These fall short of explaining NDE events. Many NDEs have occurred without medication. Drowning victims are one example. Also, thousands of NDE victims were able to clearly describe places and people with exact detail while they were clinically dead. One girl, while near dead, was able to describe what her family did that night at home, what was made for dinner, where everyone sat and even what was said. Others were able to describe in detail objects in rooms nearby and far away from them. One patient described a shoe on the rooftop of a hospital. When the nurses looked, they

found the shoe exactly as described. Gary Habermas and J. Moreland provide a comprehensive discussion of NDEs in their book *Beyond Death*, arguing that naturalistic explanations cannot satisfactorily explain the events that occur in NDEs. However, NDEs do not accurately reflect what lies beyond the grave. NDEs deal with accounts that give a short glimpse behind the curtain of death and therefore they give us an incomplete picture. His supremacy over everything was established through His resurrection. Also, we know that Satan masquerades as an angel of light and can produce counterfeit appearances. It is imperative that we evaluate all experiences in light of Scripture. Can We Communicate with the Dead? Do the spirits of the dead have the ability to communicate with the living? He, like other psychics, claims to have the ability to communicate with the spirits of the deceased. He amazes spectators with his ability to reveal details about which only the deceased loved one may have known. From this communication, people attempt to receive comfort, advice, and encouragement. The Bible teaches that communication with the dead is not possible. Throughout the Bible God commands His people not to indulge in the practice of necromancy, the art of communicating with the dead. The Canaanites consulted spirits and the dead in hopes of gaining power and predicting future events. This practice is an abomination to God and it is for this reason the Canaanites were ejected from the land. Israel was warned not to imitate the Canaanites or they too would suffer a similar fate. Contacting the dead is forbidden because the spirits of the dead cannot contact the living. In Luke 16, the rich man who was suffering in hell sought a way to communicate with his living family to warn them of their fate. However, he was not able to communicate in any way nor could the living communicate with him. Who, then, are mediums and spiritists contacting? If they are indeed contacting a spiritual being, it is most likely a demonic counterfeit. Although the demonic spirit may communicate some truths, the ultimate intention of the spirit is to deceive and take one away from the Lord. This practice can ultimately lead to demonic possession and injury to the person. Knowing this, Paul eventually cast the spirit out of the girl. Throughout the Bible the practice of necromancy is forbidden. Some will try to defend necromancy by pointing to 1 Samuel Here Saul requests the Witch of Endor to call up Samuel from the grave. The spirit of Samuel arises and delivers a prophetic message to Saul. Bible scholars take two views on this. Some believe it was a demonic counterfeit masquerading as Samuel. I believe since the prophecy given came to pass, this was indeed Samuel the prophet. Whichever view you take, it is clear this verse does not encourage one to consult mediums. In desperation, he disobeyed God as was the pattern of his life and suffered the consequence. His story teaches us a lesson and is not an example to follow. One Minute After Death What happens when we breathe our final breath? The Bible teaches what will occur. First our immaterial soul and spirit will be separated from our physical body. Second, we will immediately receive the judgment that will determine our eternal destiny. Second, the soul in heaven is made perfect in holiness and our old sin nature is eradicated. The struggle with sin that Paul described and all Christians fight comes to an end forever when we, after death, enter our glorified state. Those who reject this gift, will receive what they have chosen, eternity separated from God in Hell. Our eternal destiny is determined by the decision we make for Christ here on earth. Many assume that after receiving Christ all that remains is a joyful entrance into heaven. Scripture teaches that Jesus will reward us according to how we lived our life on earth. He taught this principle in the parable of the talents in Luke Each servant was entrusted to administer the talents the master gave him. Upon the return of the master, each servant had to give an account for his stewardship. The wise servants were rewarded doubly while the wicked servant was removed.

Our Life after Death is a collection of passages from Heaven and Hell that describe the soul's journey from the moment of death through the stages of self-discovery in the world of spirits. Swedenborg tells us that it is not God who judges and sentences souls to heaven or hell, but that it is we who judge ourselves.

This phase is known as algor mortis, or the death chill. Each hour, the body temperature falls about 1. At the same time, without circulation to keep it moving through the body, blood starts to pool and settle. Rigor mortis, or a stiffening of the body, sets in about two to six hours after death [source: While the body as a whole may be dead, little things within the body are still alive. Skin cells, for example, can be viably harvested for up to 24 hours after death [source: A few days after death, these bacteria and enzymes start the process of breaking down their host. The pancreas is full of so many bacteria that it essentially digests itself [source: As these organisms work their way to other organs, the body becomes discolored, first turning green, then purple, then black. In addition to smelling up the room, that gas will cause the body to bloat, the eyes to bulge out of their sockets and the tongue to swell and protrude. In rare instances, this gas has created enough pressure after a few weeks to cause decomposing pregnant women to expel the fetus in a process known as coffin birth. A week after death, the skin has blistered and the slightest touch could cause it to fall off. A month after death, the hair, nails and teeth will fall out. They merely look bigger as the skin dries out. Internal organs and tissues have liquefied, which will swell the body until it bursts open. At that point, a skeleton remains. There are endless possibilities: We can choose a coffin for our body or an urn for our ashes. We can be embalmed, mummified or frozen. Some cultures were rumored to engage in cannibalistic rituals of consuming the dead, while others left their dead exposed to the elements for animals to cart away. You could donate your body to science or ask for burial at sea. But unless mummified or preserved, bodies eventually disintegrate in the process described above. Early cultures buried the dead with their favorite possessions and sometimes their favorite people for the afterlife. Sometimes, warriors or servants were buried standing up, eternally ready for action. Orthodox Jews shroud their dead and bury them on the same day as death, while Buddhists believe that consciousness stays in the body for three days [source: Mims ; Cassell et al]. Religion and culture will always be intertwined with death, and one large area of influence relates to the ethical questions surrounding the dying process.

Chapter 3 : Looking for true peace? | Peace With God

Our Life after Death is a collection of writings from that volume that focus specifically on what happens to us as we cross over and what we experience as new souls in the world of spirits, where we prepare to find our soul's permanent home.

Is there life after death? The existence of life after death is a universal question. He springs up like a flower and withers away; like a fleeting shadow, he does not endure. If a man dies, will he live again? Like Job, all of us have been challenged by this question. Exactly what happens to us after we die? Do we simply cease to exist? Is life a revolving door of departing and returning to earth in order to eventually achieve personal greatness? Does everyone go to the same place, or do we go to different places? Is there really a heaven and hell? Jesus Christ, God in the flesh, came to the earth to give us this gift of eternal life. Jesus took on the punishment that all of us deserve and sacrificed His life to pay the penalty for our sin. Three days later, He proved Himself victorious over death by rising from the grave. He remained on the earth for forty days and was witnessed by hundreds before ascending to heaven. The apostle Paul challenged people to question eyewitnesses for its validity, and no one was able to contest its truth. The resurrection is the cornerstone of the Christian faith. Because Christ was raised from the dead, we can have faith that we, too, will be resurrected. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the ultimate proof of life after death. Christ was only the first of a great harvest of those who will be raised to life again. Physical death came through one man, Adam, to whom we are all related. Although we will all be eventually resurrected, not everyone will go to heaven. The Bible says that it is appointed for us to die only once, and after that will come judgment Hebrews 9: Those who have been made righteous by faith in Christ will go into eternal life in heaven, but those who reject Christ as Savior will be sent to eternal punishment in hell Matthew Hell, like heaven, is not simply a state of existence, but a literal place. It is a place where the unrighteous will experience never-ending, eternal wrath from God. Hell is described as a bottomless pit Luke 8: In hell, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, indicating intense grief and anger Matthew God takes no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but desires them to turn from their wicked ways so that they can live Ezekiel But He will not force us into submission; if we choose to reject Him, He accepts our decision to live eternally apart from Him. Life on earth is a test, a preparation for what is to come. For believers, life after death is eternal life in heaven with God. For unbelievers, life after death is eternity in the lake of fire. How can we receive eternal life after death and avoid an eternity in the lake of fire? There is only one way—through faith and trust in Jesus Christ. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die The free gift of eternal life is available to all. Our eternal destination is determined in our earthly lifetimes by our reception or rejection of Jesus Christ. If we trust the death of Jesus Christ as the full payment for our sin against God, we are guaranteed not only a meaningful life on earth, but also eternal life after death, in the glorious presence of Christ. Have you made a decision to receive Jesus Christ as Savior because of what you have read here? If so, please click on the "I have accepted Christ today" button below. If you have any questions, please use the question form on our Bible Questions Answered page.

Chapter 4 : What Happens After Death? A Christian Perspective

dred years before Raymond A. Moody's Life After Life launched the study of near-death experiences, Heaven and Hell describes, from the point of view of a firsthand investigator, our passing to the.

What are the seven deadly sins? There are other instances of people who had been raised from the dead, but unlike those mentioned before in the Bible, Lazarus had been dead for an entire period of four days. What does the Bible say about death? The Bible compares death to sleep more than fifty times. After death we are asleep, we are unconscious; we are not aware of the passing of time or of what is going on around us. That is what death is like as well. Peter on the Day of Pentecost said the same of King David. What does the Bible say about cremation? What happens to your soul when you die? Many Christians think of the soul as an immortal entity within us that goes on living after death. What does the Bible say? God did not put a soul into man. He formed the body from the dust of the ground, and then He breathed His life-giving spirit into the lifeless body—and the result was a soul, or a living being. When a person dies, the reverse takes place. The breath of life departs from the body, and the soul no longer exists. At the resurrection, God reunites the body and His life-giving spirit—and the person lives again. If souls existed as separate entities that lived on after we died, that would mean we have immortality. However, the Bible says human beings do not have immortality. Only God is immortal see 1 Timothy 6: If we had immortal souls, why would the righteous seek after something they already have? Is there life after death? We will receive immortality when Jesus comes again see 1 Corinthians The Bible says that all those who have died—both righteous and wicked—will be raised to life in one of two resurrections. According to this verse, the righteous do not go to heaven when they die. They remain asleep in the grave until Jesus returns and raises them to immortal life see 1 Corinthians The wicked are raised to life in a separate resurrection—the resurrection of condemnation. The prophets never mention in the Bible that the righteous immediately go to heaven or the wicked go to hell when they die. Neither did Jesus and His apostles teach it. When Jesus was about to leave His disciples, He did not tell them they would soon come to Him. I go to prepare a place for you. When He returns, our loved ones asleep in Christ will awake from their tombs. No matter how long the time has passed, be it long or short, will seem but a moment to them. By the voice of Jesus, they are called forth from their deep slumber they will begin to think just where they ceased, awakening to a glorious immortality. O Hades, where is your victory?

Chapter 5 : Jane Robertâ€™s Seth Describes Our Life After Death â€“ The Search For Life After Death

Life after death is not just a wish but a promise fulfilled. The afterlife is a paradise of angels and loved ones who have gone before us - a blissful place. When we contemplate the afterlife, we might imagine a paradise of angels and loved ones who have gone before us--a blissful place.

Being medically dead is something a lot of people remember Image: Getty Get daily news updates directly to your inbox Subscribe Thank you for subscribing We have more newsletters Show me See our privacy notice Could not subscribe, try again later Invalid Email The two certainties in life are supposedly death and taxes. Death is the one of the last mysteries, remaining largely unknowable - regardless of huge scientific advancements. And the answers vary a lot. Grieving family wants every driver to watch this devastating crash footage so it never happens again 1. Like reading a book Five years ago monitormonkey underwent major surgery during which he bled out, causing him to be dead for several minutes. What comes after death has been a question no one can conclusively answer Image: I knew there was light and love somewhere nearby but I had no urge or need to go to it right away. More like I was idly flipping through a book and snippets stood out here and there. A visit from someone dear Schneidah7 was thrown from his motorbike while cruising at 50 mph and was medically dead when he was taken to hospital. As he lay in the road before the ambulance came, he recalled someone he knew encouraging him. Another user claims he was visited and comforted by his brother Image: Come on man, get up. This was odd because my brother died from an overdose several years ago. Getty Have you had a near-death experience? There was a playground with a merry-go-round in the middle and two children running around it. A boy and a girl. My heart had stopped for six minutes. Hitting snooze As a teenager, TheDeadManWalks had been going through months of chemotherapy when his nose started bleeding uncontrollably. Due to a sepsis and Clostridium difficile infection, his condition worsened, and he slipped in and out of death, which he describes beautifully. Dear David makes his appearance at the same time each night Image: Or is it a hoot? After two minutes, his friend managed to resuscitate him.

Near-death experiences have been hypothesized in various medical journals in the past, as having the characteristics of hallucinations, but Dr Ackermann and his team, on the contrary, consider them as evidence for the existence of the afterlife and of a form of dualism between mind and body.

He returns through Jane as a teacher, to help us remember our spiritual heritage and empower us to make positive changes in our lives. She had no conscious memory of what had been spoken through her lips. Some people have divided opinions on channeling. Jane channeled unto her deathbed, and aside from the modest returns from her book, she led a more or less reclusive life, eschewing all fame, gaining no fortune and spending inordinate amount of time channeling for Seth. She and her husband lived in a modest apartment in Elmira, New York and only much later even had enough money to purchase a house. She produced many volumes of work, plus boxes of unpublished materials that are currently housed in the Yale library. She was also tested by a fair number of scientists and psychologists during the time, and all conceded there to be no evidence of fraud. Lastly, Jane, if producing these books under fraudulent claims, could have simply published the material under her own name, so why create a fictional entity? After spending decades researching Jane, reading the works, looking for any possible contradiction or motive for fraud. I have found none. In fact, to this day, The Seth Material remains the one afterlife source that I will proudly proclaim that I believe is genuine, and much of my personal belief system is colored by these works. When I first read them, they seemed to call up in me a sort of remembrance, and the ring of truth. In many cases, immediately on leaving the body there is, of course, amazement and a recognition of the situation. The body itself may be viewed, for example, and many funerals have a guest of honor amidst the company "and no one gazes into the face of the corpse with as much curiosity and wonder. On the initial condition of arriving in the spirit world: A belief in a stereotyped heaven can result in a hallucination of heavenly conditions. You always form your own reality according to your ideas and expectations. This is the nature of consciousness in whatever reality it finds itself. Such hallucinations, I assure you, are temporary. You are not left alone, therefore, lost in mazes of hallucination. You may or may not realize immediately that you are dead in physical terms. Christianity has believed in a heaven and a hell, a purgatory, and reckoning; and so, at death, to those who so believe in these symbols, another ceremony is enacted, and the guides take on the guises of those beloved figures of Christian saints and heroes. Then with this as framework, and in terms that they can understand, such individuals are told the true situation. Mass religious movements have for centuries fulfilled that purpose, in giving man some plan to be followed. On realizing your new non-physical form: Then the differences between it and the physical body will become obvious. In other words, you must learn to understand and use new freedoms. On meeting deceased friends and relatives: Now, you may or may not be greeted by friends or relatives immediately following death. This is a personal matter, as always. Overall, you may be far more interested in people that you have known in past lives than those close to you in the present one, for example. Your true feeling toward relatives who are also dead will be known to you and to them. There is no hypocrisy. You do not pretend to love a parent who did little to earn your respect or love. Telepathy operates without distortion in this after-death period, so you must deal with the true relationships that exist between yourself and all relatives and friends who await you. On the Life Review: Until this examination is through, you are not yet aware of the larger portions of your own identity. On remembering past lives and choosing a new one: When you realize the significance and meaning of the life you have just left, then you are ready for conscious knowledge of your other existences. You become aware, then, of an expanded awareness. What you are begins to include what you have been in other lives, and you begin to make plans for your next physical existence, if you decide upon one. You can instead enter another level of reality, and then return to a physical existence if you choose. On organized assistance in the afterlife: First of all, it should be obvious from what I have said so far that there is no one after-death reality, but [that] each experience is different. Generally speaking, however, there are dimensions into which these individual experiences will fall. On this level there will be hospitals and rest homes. The patients do not yet realize that there is nothing wrong with them at all. They are often, in fact,

maintained en masse by the guides who carry out the necessary plans. Now you may call this mass hallucination if you will. The fact is that to those encountering that reality, the events are quite real. On Earthbound spirits and Ghosts: You may after death utterly refuse to believe that you are dead, and continue to focus your emotional energy toward those you have known in life. If you have been obsessed with a particular project, for example, you may try to complete it. There are always guides to help you understand your situation, but you may be so engrossed that you pay them no heed. They are as alert or as unalert to their situation as you are to your own. They are not fully focused in physical reality, however, either in personality or in form, and this is their main distinction. Some apparitions are thought-forms sent by survival personalities out of lingering deep anxiety. They portray the same compulsive-type behavior that can be seen in many instances in your ordinary experience. The above descriptions are only a very small portion of the detail that Seth provides in his book, *Seth Speaks: The Eternal Validity of the Soul*. Although the material is difficult at times due to its technical, intellectual and esoteric nature, the sophistication of the material cannot be denied. This information predates most of the spiritual material that we now take for granted, and yet has formed the foundation for much of it. I cannot promise that Seth will not challenge your preexisting ideas of religion or of divine judgement, as he denies both pretty early in his books. Instead, we create our own reality, and the only judge of our deeds is ourselves. Dogma has no permanent place in a realm of pure thought; and all experiences, both good and bad are judged as simply experiences; each with the potential for learning and growth. I am not too bashful to say that Seth changed my life when I first read it at Now, nearly two decades later, re-reading his books only continue to deepen my spirituality. The information found in the Seth material agrees with modern NDE experiences, after-death communications and information from genuine mediums and other valid channeling resources. You get what you concentrate upon. There is no other main rule.

Chapter 7 : 20 Best Verses About Life After Death - Scripture Passages

LIFE AFTER DEATH: 'It's really nice pleasant' - Astonishing accounts of the afterlife DEATH is a "pleasant" experience which has left some who have died pining to return to the afterlife.

Life after Death What happens when we die? At death, our spirit and physical body are separated. At the Resurrection our spirit and body reunite in a perfected state, never to be separated again. Our spirits are divine and they are eternal; they existed long before we were born, and they will continue on forever after we die. In many ways we can compare our existence to a three-act play, with a premortal existence, an earthly existence, and a post-mortal existence. We have to exercise faith when trying to understand His vantage point, because our concepts of time and purpose are limited by the mortal lens through which we view them. Accordingly, we have difficulty envisioning the limitlessness of eternity and eternal progression. The earth was a place where we could gain physical bodies; exercise agency; grow in wisdom, faith, and compassion; build relationships with others; and perform holy ordinances necessary for our salvation. Expand Text During our mortal life we must put forth great effort to perfect ourselves. Unlike our Savior, Jesus Christ, we sin and fall short as we strive for this perfection. To balance the scales of justice, the Savior atoned for our sins, ensuring that our physical death would not be the end of our progression. This gift of Resurrection is available to all of us, but whether or not we attain a fulness of joy after this life is determined by how we spend our time here on earth. After death we enter the spirit world, where we no longer have physical distractions and where our actions on earth determine the amount of peace and happiness we experience in this new realm. In many ways, we judge ourselves while we await our Resurrection and the Final Judgment of Jesus Christ. That is why this life is a time of testingâ€”because our actions in this life determine our eternal destiny. Those who repent and live valiant lives will feel peace and happiness in the spirit world, which will be for them a state of paradise and rest. Those who live otherwise will become acutely aware of their sins and will be in a spirit prison of their own making. But God is compassionate, and even here, He allows us to progress and to be taught things we still need to learn. We can continue to learn about and benefit from the Atonement, faith in God and Jesus Christ, repentance, and the fulness of the gospel. Saving ordinances can be performed on earth by proxy for those who were not baptized or sealed to their families during their earthly lives, and if these works are accepted by those who have passed on, then these individuals can progress to paradise while awaiting the Resurrection. Before Jesus ascended to heaven following His death and Resurrection, He said that He would return to earth in glory. At that time He will serve as our king. In Isaiah, Daniel, and John we read about Christ dwelling among the inhabitants of earth and ruling over the kingdoms of both earth and heaven. In the book of Revelation we learn that the world will enjoy a thousand years of peace and that, for the duration of the Millennium, Satan will be bound. During the Millennium, the earth will be renewed to its former paradisiacal glory; there will be a refreshment, not a replacement, of the world we know now. The earth will not be destroyed but transformedâ€”glorifiedâ€”as the disparity between heaven and earth is overcome while Jesus reigns. Just as the world will be renewed and improved, so too will the spirits of the dead be reunited with a perfected body in the Resurrection. I go to prepare a place for you. But God dwells in the celestial kingdom, and only those whose lives prepared them to live in His presence can also dwell there. Through our choices on earth, we choose our eternal destiny. Those of us who want to claim the highest degree of exaltation and dwell with our Father are actively earning our place there now while we have earthly bodies and the agency to do so. We do this because we love Him and want to be with Him.

Chapter 8 : Our life after death by Emanuel Swedenborg

Our soul goes through a complicated life review after death that involves all our parallel lives, not just the life we think we had. Big Picture calendrierdelascience.com Bridging Science and Spirituality with New Thought.

Our Life After Death Rev. Jason Kortering Death possesses a terrible sting. Any of you who have gathered around the death-bed of a loved one have felt it. It is an awesome moment when you are called upon to be present at death. Strange things often accompany the agony of dying. Perhaps some of you have personally witnessed a dying loved one lifting up a feeble hand heavenward and trying to describe the angels that are present or the heavenly splendor that they see. Not infrequently this vision of splendor evokes a cry of eager anticipation from the dying. Soon the last breath is heard and the forces of death take hold. A once active, breathing, speaking, loving person now lies coldly still in death. At such a time the question of life after death cries urgently for an answer. Does one simply go to sleep after death? Is death the end of all existence? Does one leave this life to begin the enjoyment of a better life? These questions become urgent for two reasons. Interest in the life after death is not born out of mere curiosity, rather we desire to know what happens to our loved ones who depart from this life. If the bond of love has been established in Jesus Christ, we desire to know whether our departed brother or sister continues to enjoy that bond of fellowship with Christ or not. Even this interest is not centered simply in the person. Our concern is not limited to the well-being of a loved one; chiefly the motive of our question is this, do they continue to live to the glory of God or not? We know that the purpose of life here is centered in the praise and glory of God; we likewise wonder whether God is glorified in the death of His saints or not. Even then, we cannot divorce ourselves personally from this interest in the life hereafter. We know we are going to die. The only exception applies to those who will be upon the earth when Christ returns I Thess. We desire to know for ourselves what we may expect at the time of our death. The promises of God are clear and sure on this point. As we consider the Scriptural truths on this subject, it is our prayer that each one who reads this may come to the same conclusion as the Apostle Paul in I Cor. O grave, where is thy victory? The sting of death is sin; and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, which giveth us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. If we consult the dictionary we are confronted with a definition similar to this one, "Immortality-- exemption from death or annihilation, unending existence, everlasting, as immortality of the soul. According to the Greeks, immortality simply applied to the continued existence of the soul after death. Berkhof explains this view and contends that the Bible uses the term in this way. It is one of the doctrines of natural religion, or philosophy that, when the body is dissolved, the soul does not share in its dissolution, but retains its identity as an individual being. This idea of the immortality of the soul is in perfect harmony with what the Bible teaches about man, but the Bible, religion, and theology, are not primarily interested in this purely quantitative and colorless immortality, the bare continued existence of the soul. Does the Bible speak of immortality as mere continuous existence? First, the Bible speaks of God as being immortal. Likewise in I Tim. So when this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death Is swallowed up in victory. From this it must become immediately apparent, that the word immortal cannot and must not be applied to the wicked outside of Christ. The word itself, athanasia, means outside the scope of death, without death. The Word of God certainly does not describe the wicked as deathless. The very opposite Is true. Already in the beginning of time the warning was issued, "The day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die," Gen. This actually happened when Adam and Eve ate of the forbidden fruit, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin, and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned," Rom. The character of this death is described for us by the Psalmist, "For lo, they that are far from thee shall perish: All during their early existence and even reaching beyond, they die and sink deeper into death. Physical death brings them to a greater measure of separation from God. The apostle John speaks of a second death for the unbeliever, "and the devil that deceived them was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are, and shall be tormented day and night for ever and ever This is the second death. It must be apparent that the term immortality cannot be applied to the wicked outside of Christ. Their souls are not immortal, they are

dead and pass into a deeper state of death continually, even unto hell. Only the children of God are immortal. Their souls are immortal and their bodies must put on immortality. They are delivered from the power of death through Jesus Christ who is the "resurrection and the life," John Principally this life is infused in the child of God when God regenerates him, John 3: This rebirth delivers us from the power of sin and death. It is this life of Christ that places us in a relationship with God, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous and his ears are open unto their prayers," I Peter 3: In the power of this life we seek God, "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near; let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts; and let him return unto the lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for he will abundantly pardon," Isa Behold the tabernacle of God is with men. Why Physical Death for the Believer? The weight of this question can be appreciated only with a proper understanding of the nature of death. Let it be emphasized from the outset that death is not natural. Because we live in the sphere of death we become conditioned and accept death as something ordinary. We expect to die, it is the inevitable end of all men, "It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment," Heb. Death is under the direction of our Sovereign God, He alone takes life. In fact it may even be said that when God has accomplished His purpose with man, He slays him and thereby delivers him through physical death to his everlasting abode. Christ Jesus has delivered His people from the curse of death. As the perfect High Priest He sacrificed His blood upon the cross as the payment for the sins of His elect, "Wherefore in all things it behooved him to be made like unto his brethren that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people," Heb. Through the blood of atonement, Christ completely redeemed His people from death, He removed the curse forever, I Cor. Why must the believer pass through physical death? From the above we understand that death is not punishment for the child of God. The curse of physical death was also removed by Christ. We must place physical death in the context of the purpose of God for all things. The whole earth is under the curse of death. This includes all mankind, Rom. It is the purpose of God to save His people by delivering them out of the curse of death. Time is the means within which God unfolds His perfect counsel. This indicates to us that the full realization of the everlasting must await the end of time, I Cor. Hence our whole life is a passing through the valley of the shadow of death, Ps. Physical death is the means that Christ uses to separate us from the sphere of the curse when our purpose on earth is finished, and to deliver our soul to a higher realm of glory to await the reunion of the body in the resurrection. Death for the believer is not a curse, rather it is the servant of Christ which delivers us unto life everlasting, II Cor. The Conscious State of the Believer There must be not a doubt in our minds that the believer immediately upon death enters into a conscious state of glory. To make this clear we must expose the fallacy of what is commonly called "soul-sleep. Proponents of this view seek support from Scripture by making reference to texts that describe death as a sleep. Or "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness," Ps. Similarly Peter quotes from Ps. From these texts they reason furthermore that in the instance of those who were resurrected from the dead and brought back to this life, none describe for us or relate anything concerning the blessed life they experienced after death. They would take literally the words of Jesus concerning Lazarus, "Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep," John Besides these evidences, they reason that it is impossible for a soul to function in this life without a body, it must also be true after death. It is irrational to imagine that a soul can be active and conscious without a body. In answer to these conclusions by the Anabaptists and Russelites and all who follow this reasoning, we maintain that whenever Scripture speaks of death as a sleep, it does so simply from the point of view of the body. Careful study of the texts that speak of death as a sleep will reveal that in every instance reference is made to the physical aspect of death. This is quite in harmony with reality. The force of physical death is likened to sleep; the body lies dormant, oblivious of all surrounding, to be laid to rest and raised in the resurrection. Hence burial of the body is described as a being sown in corruption, but raised in incorruption," I Cor. Concerning those who were raised from the dead and returned to this life, we need but remember that these were exceptions and cannot by any reasoning be made the rule. God had a special purpose for the raising of Lazarus, and it may well be that God preserved his soul in a dormant state while awaiting the return to this life. Scripture provides abundant proof that believers expected immediate

glorification at death. Even though we cannot fathom this wonder as e. Paul wrote to the Philippians, "According to my earnest expectation and my hope, that in nothing I shall be ashamed, but that with all boldness, as always, so now also, Christ shall be magnified in my body, whether it be by life, or by death.

Chapter 9 : Is there life after death?

Editor's note. Today several news stories have made the rounds, claiming that a study has proven the idea of life after death. We investigated and found that these stories seem to be a rehash (and.