### Revision

What does the world thing of death? | Why do we die? | Why do Christians die?

### What happens when a believer dies?

When a believer dies the soul (or spirit) of that believer goes immediately into the presence of God:

2 Corinthians 5:8 Philippians 1:23 2 Corinthians 5:1 Luke 23:43 Hebrews 12:23

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| **Unbiblical views about Paradise:** *Luke 23:43 2Cor.12:2-4.* In *Rev 2:7* we read that the tree of life is in *Paradise* while in *Rev 22* we read that the tree of life is where the throne of God is. |

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| Unbiblical views about the Intermediate State (between death and resurrection)  Seventh-Day Adventists and Jehovah’s witnesses believe that believer **ceases to exist.** They believe that the unity of the soul and body are so intimate that the soul cannot survive death and the dissolution of the body  There are others who believe that believers (and unbelievers) **do not experience any conscious existence** after death and before resurrection. They believe that since the time between falling sleep and awaking is not experienced, they will awaken as though no time has elapsed. They believe that the next thing they are conscious of will be when Christ returns and raises them to eternal life. They use scriptures like *Matt 27:52* and *1Thess 4:13*  *2 Cor. 5: 6-8* *Phil 1:23*( much better – not asleep) *Rev 6: 9*(souls cry out – not asleep)  Jesus uses the word ‘sleep’ metaphorically of Lazarus and then goes on to explain that he has died. *(John 11:11-13).* No where does the Bible say that the *soul* is sleeping.  As a side note, those passages that speak of death as sleep use this language only to speak of the death of believers, never of unbelievers. Death is a *‘falling asleep’* only for those who are in Christ Jesus *(1Cor.15:18, 1Thess 4:14).*  Both groups (in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in *Luke 16:19-31)*  are conscious of the surroundings: Lazarus is in Abraham’s bosom and comforted *(vv. 22-23, 25),* the rich man is in Hades and tormented *(vv. 23-25, 28).* There is memory of the past: the rich man is instructed to ‘remember’ earlier circumstances *(v. 25),* and he can recall his family and their attitude to ‘Moses and the prophets’ *(vv. 27-30).* Moreover the whole dialogue with Abraham suggests that the departed have their capacity to reason *(v. 30).*  In conclusion we can state that the believers in the intermediate state have a fellowship with Christ that is even more profound than their experience of Christ on earth. Not only are departed believers safe in God’s hands *(Lk. 23:46; Acts 7:59)* as they ‘*rest’* from their labours in joyful satisfaction *(Rev. 14:13).* |

### What happens when an unbeliever dies?

Like a believer, an unbeliever also upon his death experiences a conscious form of existence. But his intermediate state, which is the time between his death and resurrection, is dramatically different from that of a believer. While the believer enjoys a life of *provisional blessedness* in the presence of the Lord, the unbeliever experiences a *provisional foretaste of eternal conscious torment*. This place is called as **Hades** in the above parable.

### Is there a second chance after death?

*Heb 9:26-28* | Bible never represents the final judgment as depending on anything done after we die *(Matt. 25:31-46; 2 Cor. 5:10* | Not consistent with the intense missionary zeal shown by the New Testament church *2 Cor.6:2* | Parable of the rich man and Lazarus | Second-chance idea is based on the assumption that everyone deserves a chance to accept Christ, which is untrue

Remember we have a responsibility for the men and women round about us. Our spirit should be the same as of Paul who wrote *‘Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men (2Cor 5:11).* May God enable us to do so.