

Lesson 8 – The Dead in Christ

Sabbath's Lesson

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first” (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

What does it mean to be “dead in Christ”? What does it mean to be alive in Christ?? How has Satan caused so much confusion regarding the subject of human death?? Might there be some connection with the first lie humans ever heard [see Gen. 3:4]?? How does God's Law fit in to any / all of this?? What does most of Christianity's understanding of human death say about God?? Is our [Adventist's] view any better? What does the Bible say “death” is??

- HELL -- Psalm 55:15, Psalm 139:8, Proverbs 5:5, Proverbs 9:18, Proverbs 15:24, Isaiah 14:9, Ezekiel 32:27]
- PIT -- Job 33:18, Job 33:22, Job 33:24, Job 33:28, Job 33:30, Psalm 28:1, Psalm 30:3, Psalm 30:9, Psalm 49:9, Proverbs 1:12
- SLEEP -- Job 14:12, Psalm 13:3, Psalm 76:5, Psalm 76:6, Jeremiah 51:39, Daniel 12:2, **John 11:11-14**, 1 Corinthians 15:51, 1 Thessalonians 5:10.

How do we estimate the damage caused by humanity's belief in the immortality of the soul? What sorts of devil's doctrines have been developed from this lie?? An eternal hell?? Abortion is murder?? Prayer for the souls of dead?? Catholic indulgences?? Jihads / Holy wars?? Departed loved ones appearing to the living bringing wisdom and guidance

Sunday's Lesson

13 Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. 14 For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in him. 15 According to the Lord's word, we tell you that we who are still alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will certainly not precede those who have fallen asleep 16 For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever. 18 Therefore encourage one another with these words. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

Any ideas about the errors in thinking Paul was dealing with?? Were the Jews in unity regarding the state of the dead [Matt 22:23, Acts 23:8]??

The lesson asks: “What does it mean to ‘live like a Seventh-day Adventist.’”? Any thoughts??

The Seventh-day Adventist Church, teaches that the first death, or death brought about by living on a planet with sinful conditions (sickness, old age, accident, etc.) is a sleep of the soul. Adventists believe that the body + the breath of God = a living soul. Like Jehovah's Witnesses, Adventists use key phrases from the Bible, such as "For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten" (Eccl. 9:5 KJV). Adventists also point to the fact that the wage of sin is death and God alone is immortal. Adventists believe God will grant eternal life to the redeemed who are resurrected at Jesus' second coming. Until then, all those who have died are "asleep." When Jesus the Christ, who is the Word and the Bread of Life, comes a second time, the righteous will be raised incorruptible and will be taken in the clouds to meet their Lord. The righteous will live in heaven for a thousand years (the millennium) where they will sit with God in judgment over the unredeemed and the fallen angels. During the time the redeemed are in heaven, the Earth will be devoid of human and animal inhabitation. Only the fallen angels will be left alive. The second resurrection is of the unrighteous, when Jesus brings the New Jerusalem down from heaven to relocate to Earth. Jesus will call to life all those who are unrighteous. Satan and his angels will convince the unrighteous to surround the city, but hell fire and brimstone will fall from heaven and consume them, thus cleansing Earth of all sin. The universe will be then free from sin forever. This is called the second death. On the new earth God will provide an eternal home for all the redeemed and a perfect environment for everlasting life, where Eden will be restored. The great controversy will be ended and sin will be no more. God will reign in perfect harmony forever. (Rom. 6:23; 1 Tim. 6:15, 16; Eccl. 9:5, 6; Ps. 146:3, 4; John 11:11-14; Col. 3:4; 1 Cor. 15:51-54; 1 Thess. 4:13-17; John 5:28, 29; Rev. 20:1-10; Rev. 20; 1 Cor. 6:2, 3; Jer. 4:23-26; Rev. 21:1-5; Mal. 4:1; Eze. 28:18, 19; 2 Peter 3:13; Isa. 35; 65:17-25; Matt. 5:5; Rev. 21:1-7; 22:1-5; 11:15.)

Ref: Wikipedia – SDA's belief on the “afterlife”.

Monday's Lesson

Think about what it would mean to attend the funeral of a loved one WITHOUT our understanding of death / resurrection / God's Law / etc. It's not a comforting thought, is it?

The lesson states: “A further element is the pagan background of most of the believers to whom Paul is writing (1 Thess. 1:9). Though the mystery religions of the time offered a picture of the afterlife, most pagans had no hope of life after death.”

I'm not sure I agree with this statement. Egypt, Greece, Rome, and many other ancient religions offered some “hope” of afterlife. Is it reasonable to think that Satan would have

deceived Eve with an offer of immortality, and then stopped offering that, since it worked so well?? Hardly.

Tuesday's lesson

The lesson, correctly, points out that v. 14 has been used by those who believe in the immortality of the soul to prove that God brings the "dead in Christ" with Christ at His 2nd coming. This would contradict v. 16, where Paul states clearly, that the "dead in Christ" will rise 1st and then those who are alive will be caught up to meet Christ in the air afterward.

What sorts of parallels can we draw between Christ's death, and resurrection?? [John 20:17]. Does our understanding of God's Law give us any other perspective?

Wednesday's Lesson

Note the bottom section. The lesson would have us believe that common sense, our experience, and science do not support our belief in the events surrounding the 2nd coming of Christ. Is this accurate??

Thursday's lesson

Where is the focus, with most of humanity, at the time of a loved one's departure from this life??

How should our experience be different? What does "comfort one another" really mean??