

DOCTRINE OF DEATH

1. Definition - (Webster's Dictionary) A total and permanent cessation of all vital functions; akin to extinction, destruction, and termination.

2. Vocabulary:
 - a. מוֹת - moth – (Hebrew noun) – death
 - b. מוּת - muth – (Hebrew verb) – to die, to put to death, to cause to die
 - c. θάνατος - thanatos – (Greek noun) - death
 - d. θανατώω - thanatoo – (Greek verb) – to put to death

3. Eight types of death mentioned in the Bible:
 - a. **Physical death** - Separation of the soul and human spirit from the physical body (Matt. 8:22; Jn. 11:25; Rom. 8:38, 39; Job 19:25, 26; Psa. 23:4; 1 Cor. 15:51ff; 2 Cor. 5:1-8; Phil. 1:21)[believer & unbeliever]
 - b. **Spiritual death** - Separation from God in time (ie. no fellowship with Him) (Eph. 2:1; 1 Cor. 15:22; Gen. 2:17; Rom 5:12; 6:23; Prov. 14:12; Ezek. 3:18; 18:20) [unbelievers only]
 - c. **Second death** - Separation from God in eternity [unbelievers only] (Heb. 9:27; Rev. 2:11; 20:11-15; Ezek. 18:4)
 - d. **Positional death/or Adjustment death** - Identification with Jesus Christ in His deaths (both spiritual and physical). This is our “**retroactive position**” in Christ's death on the cross. (Rom. 6:1-11; 2 Cor. 5:14; Col. 2:20; 3:3) [believers only, at the moment of salvation faith]
 - e. **Temporal death** - Temporary loss of fellowship with God through sin and negative volition (Luke 15:24, 32; Rom. 8:6; Eph. 5:14; 1 Tim. 5:6; James 1:15; Rev. 3:1; 1 John 1:9) [believers only] (cf. 1 Cor. 3:1-3)
 - f. **Operational death** - Failure to produce “divine good,” works produced as the result of the filling of the Holy Spirit (ie. “**Faith, if it has no works is dead...**” James 2:17, 26) [believers only]
 - g. **Sexual death** - Incapable of procreating (Rom. 4:17, 19; Heb. 11:12)[believer or unbeliever]
 - h. **Unique spiritual death of Jesus Christ** - “**He died for all (people)...**” (2 Cor. 5:14, 15, 21; Heb. 2:9; 1 Pet. 2:24); “**...He died to sin once for all (time)**, (Rom. 6:10; Heb. 10:10, 12, 14); “**...death on a cross.**” (Phil. 2:8); “**...He would render His soul as a guilt (trespass) offering,..**” (Isa. 53:10) [the humanity of Jesus Christ only]

4. Four causes of physical death:
 - a. Work on earth is finished. Paul (2 Tim. 4:7); Jesus (John 19:30, 31; Luke 23:46)

- b. Glorify the Lord as a martyr. (Phil. 1:20, 21; 2:17)
 - c. Extreme discipline, the “*sin unto death.*” (1 Chron. 10:13, 14; 1 John 5:16)
 - d. Suicide - the superimposition of human will over divine desire in the area of physical death. Judas Iscariot (Matt. 27:3-5)
5. Great believers face physical death:
- a. Job - Job 13:15
 - b. Abraham - Heb. 11:13-16
 - c. Joseph - Heb. 11:22; Gen. 50:24-26; Ex. 13:19
 - d. Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego - Dan. 3:16-18
 - e. Lazarus - Luke 16:19ff
 - f. Stephen - Acts 7:51-60
 - g. Paul - first physical death – Acts 14:19, 20; 2 Cor. 12:1-9
second physical death – Phil. 1:20, 21; 2 Tim. 4:7
6. God’s provision for physical death is dying grace.
(Job 5:17-26; 42:17; Psa. 23:4; 116:15; Eph. 1:18, 19; Phil. 3:8, 10, 11)
7. What physical death means to the believer in Jesus Christ:
- a. Having no judgment or condemnation - Rom. 8:1
 - b. Being face to face with the Lord Jesus Christ - 2 Cor. 5:8 with 1 John 3:2
 - c. “...*no more death; there shall no longer be mourning, or crying, or pain: the first things have passed away.*” - Rev. 21:4
 - d. Having an eternal inheritance - 1 Pet. 1:4, 5
 - e. Having an eternal home - John 14:1-6
 - f. Having everlasting life - John 11:25
 - g. Having a resurrection body - John 5:29; 1 Cor. 15:51-58; 2 Cor. 5:1-5; Phil. 3:21; 1 John 3:2
8. What physical death means to the unbeliever (who rejects the Lord Jesus Christ):
- a. “*In Hades...being in torments...*” - Luke 16:20-31 (and regrets forever)
 - b. At the “*second resurrection*” - John 5:29b; “*a resurrection of judgment*” – Rev. 20:11-13; “*greater condemnation*” Matt. 23:14
 - c. “*This is the second death, the lake of fire.*” - Rev. 20:14, 15
9. What death means to those left behind when a loved one dies:
- a. A reminder to be prepared - Amos 4:12; Matt. 25:19-29; Lk. 19:1-27
 - b. The shortness of physical life - Psa. 90:10; Eccl. 6:12
 - c. The certainty of divine judgment - Eccl. 3:17; 11:9; 12:14; 1 Cor. 4:5; Jn. 16:8-11
 - d. Confident anticipation of the Lord’s return - 1 Thess. 4:13-18
10. God causes physical death. (Deut. 32:39; 1 Sam. 2:6; Job 1:21; Lk. 12:5; Matt. 10:28; Rev. 1:18)