

Life Beyond Death

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I. Introduction.

- A. Text: II Corinthians 5:1-10.
- B. No one can escape the matter of death.
- C. Death is the “grand perhaps.”

II. The Bible teaches one is playing with fire when he is interacting with the occult.

- A. It is really interaction with deceitful spirits.
- B. No Christian should ever find himself here.
- C. Instead, the Christian has a sure word of prophesy that is a light in a dark place—the Word of God.

III. Life beyond death.

- A. We have certainty with a number of things about life beyond death.
- B. We know that we now live in a tent—the present body is a temporary residence.
 - 1. There is a difference between the spirit and the body.
 - 2. There is the groan of experience and the sigh of expectancy.
- C. We know that we have an eternal house waiting.
 - 1. Some say he is referring to buildings, but the parallelism suggests he is referring to a body—the resurrected body.
 - 2. What happens to those who die before the resurrection?
 - a. Some have suggested that there is a temporary body. However, there is no Scripture to support this.
 - b. Others say that they receive the resurrection body immediately. (I Corinthians 15)
 - 1) It is wrong to project the features of time into eternity.
 - 2) All the saints enter into perfection at once, not in sequence. (Hebrews)
 - 3) The believer who dies immediately experiences the Second Coming of Christ.

D. The saints longing for the judgment of those who killed them are men looking back on earth from the eternal state—those who stepped outside of time can step back in again. (Revelation 6:9-11)

E. Paul longs to be away from the body because it is fully submitted to the Spirit.

F. Our present life should be full of courage.

1. God is preparing us to walk by faith and not by sight so that we will be ready.

2. The Holy Spirit in us is a guarantee.

a. The Holy Spirit has past experience along this line—He raised Jesus, so He can raise us also.

b. His present ministry renewing our inner nature testifies to this.

3. We will be just as much at home away from the body when we are with Jesus.

G. Our aim should always be to please Him because we know that we will all appear before God to be judged for what we did in the body.

1. What is good is what pleases God.

2. Only what is done by Christ will last.

3. What is evil is what displeases God.

4. The essential ingredient for pleasing God is faith.

5. Faith is the response of an obedient heart to God's Word.

Application questions:

1. What can be said about life after death with certainty? Assess the speaker's argument—can we say that a believer will be transferred to the resurrected body immediately?

2. What reasons can we be sure about the resurrected body?

3. How would you respond to a person who says that when a believer dies he lives in eternity as a spirit? Explain.
