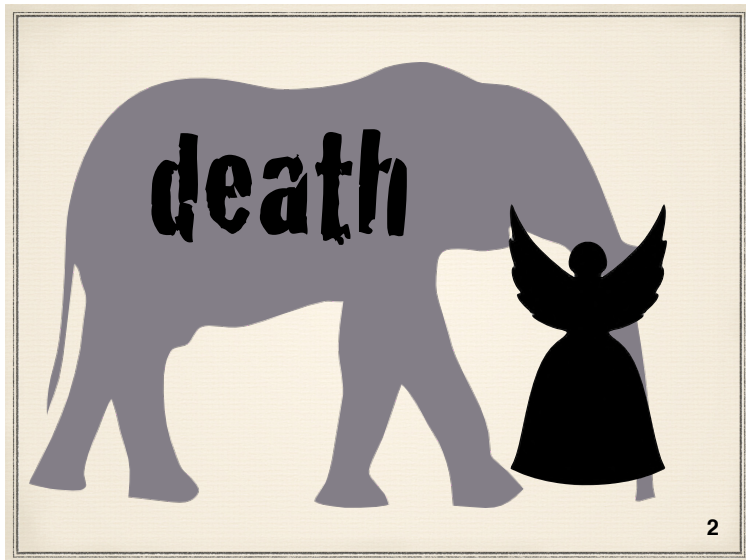
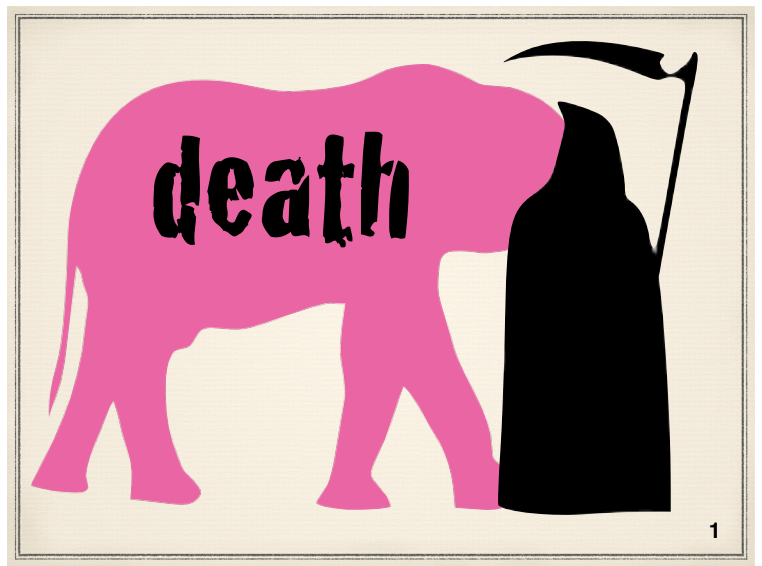


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THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

1 Corinthians 1:18
Lesson #59
Theology of Death and Dying
10/14/2018



1 Corinthians 1:18

“For the word of the cross is to those who are perishing foolishness, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.”

3

Fulton J. Sheen

“Of all the great religious leaders of history, Jesus is unique in that he alone came for the purpose of dying.”

4

The great symbols of the faith are NOT

The Law

The towel and basin

Crown of a King

reminding us of the life of Jesus and our call to service.

5

The great symbols of the faith ARE



The Cross



The bread and cup



Water Baptism

reminding us of our sharing in
Jesus' death and resurrection.

6

Water baptism
is about
conversion.

The Lord's Supper
is about
communion.



Both are about death.

7

- Christianity is the only religious system that celebrates the death of its founder.
- It also calls for the living sacrifice of its participants.

Ten reasons why death, (dying, and suffering) is at the heart of Christianity and why we should understand and embrace it.



8

A. Death and suffering are evangelistic tools.

Hebrews 2

"14 . . . that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; 15 and might deliver those who **through fear of death** were subject to slavery all their lives."

1. Death is God's universal **visual aid** to expose the human dilemma.

**Death is unavoidable
and universally resisted.**

**Don't kill God's tool to
wake up a fallen world.**



9

How does the world respond?

It tries to avoid the unavoidable.

- Graveyards are now called memorial parks or cemeteries.
- People don't die, they pass away, expire, or depart.
- People avoid making a will because it brings up the subject of death.
- People are obsessed with health, healing, and looking young.
- Churches avoid preaching on death and suffering except as an opportunity for healing.



10

How does the world respond?

- Some reject God because this world is not heaven.
- Others reject themselves because they can't make this world heaven.
- Both are postured to make the Devil's day.



11

How does the world respond?

- Some reject God because this world is not heaven.
- Others reject themselves because they can't make this world heaven.
- Both are also postured to get the point.

This is not the type of world that God originally created or ultimately wants.

This world is broken but we can't fix it.

The purpose of death is to convince us of this.



12

Perhaps the greatest witnesses to the existence of God and the credibility of the Christian message is:

The universal longing and struggle for utopia (heaven), with the fear of missing out on life.

13

Romans 8

“³ For what the Law could not do, weak as it was through the flesh, God did: sending His own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and as an offering for sin, He condemned sin in the flesh,”

2. Death drives us to the cross of Christ as our only hope.

Death cannot be conquered by the flesh.

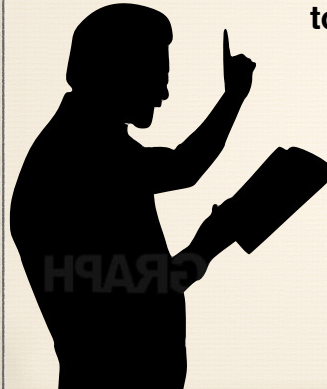
Physical healing is temporal and does not remove death, dying, and suffering.



14

Is our witness to this world:

- ✓ to show the world how following Christ will give people power to overcome obstacles to the abundant life they miss and long for?

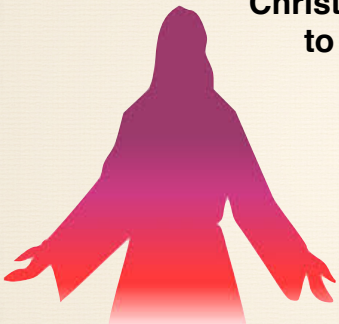


Who would come to Christ if it meant losing out on what this life has to offer?

15

Is our witness to this world:

- ✓ to show the world how following Christ will give people power to overcome obstacles to the abundant life they miss and long for?



Who would come to Christ if it meant losing out on what this life has to offer?

Only those whose hope sees beyond this world, age, and body.

16

How does this relate to deliverance and healing?

1. Will healing and prosperity not bring people to Christ? **YES!**
but it also may misplace their hope in this world, time, and body.
2. Embrace divine healing as a **sign** but not as the object of our hope.

Don't let God's gift become a "golden calf" that we worship.

17

B. Death and dying are also pedagogical tools.

Romans 8

"¹⁸ For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. . . . ²³ . . . we ourselves **groan within ourselves**, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body."

3. Physical healing is to wet our appetite **not kill our hunger.**

Spiritual health involves hunger for what this life can not offer.



Philippians 3

"¹⁰ that I may know Him, and the power of His resurrection and **the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death;** ¹¹ in order that I may attain to the resurrection from the dead."

4. **We bear a cross in this life so as to identify with Christ's suffering for us.**

It is in the valley of the shadow of death that God meets us and we learn the word of the Cross.



Death and dying prepare us to trust and obey.

Hebrews 5:8

"Although He was a Son, He **learned obedience from the things which He suffered.**"

5. Like Christ, we **learn obedience** through the things that we suffer.

Turn suffering into an opportunity to develop and demonstrate character.

Living a charmed life in a broken world is no virtue.



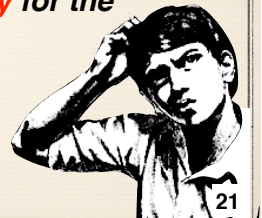
2 Corinthians 1

"³ Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort; ⁴ who comforts us in all our affliction **so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction** with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

6. Our afflictions **build empathy** for the suffering of others.

We are not in this alone.

Bear one another's burdens so as to fulfill the law of Christ. Gal.6:2



Romans 12

"¹ I urge you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, to **present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice**, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship. ² And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect."

7. **Self sacrifice is an act of worship.**

Discipleship starts at the Cross.

We find life by losing it.



C. Death and dying are to be viewed as a blessing.

Philippians 1

"²¹ For to me, **to live is Christ, and to die is gain.** ²² But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³ But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;"

8. **Death is our only doorway to experiencing our hope in Christ's resurrection life.**

Do not fear death - it is our ticket home.



1 Corinthians 15

"⁴⁷ The first man is from the earth, **earthly**; the second man is from heaven. . . . ⁵⁰ Now I say this, brethren, that **flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God**; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable." "

9. This body is **not fit** for heaven.

Recognize that this body has got to go.

Care for this body like a disposable tool not an eternal treasure.



24

1 Corinthians 15

"¹⁷ and if Christ has not been raised, your faith is worthless; you are still in your sins. ¹⁸ Then those also who have fallen asleep in Christ have perished. ¹⁹ **If we have hoped in Christ in this life only, we are of all men most to be pitied.**"

10. The answer to the issue of death is not preservation of this mortal body but **resurrection** from the dead.

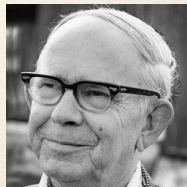
Don't fall in love with this world, this age, this body - they are all passing away.



25

This world is not my home I'm just a'passing through
my treasures are laid up somewhere beyond the blue
the angels beckon me from Heaven's open door
and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.

O Lord you know I have no friend like you
if Heaven's not my home then Lord what will I do?
the angels beckon me from Heaven's open door
and I can't feel at home in this world anymore.



Albert Brumley

26

Matthew 10:28

"And **do not fear those who kill the body**, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell."

Revelation 21:4

"And He shall wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there shall no longer be any death; there shall no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; **the first things have passed away.**"

27

Speak the truth to ourselves and others.

- We all want to go to heaven but **no one wants to die.**
- **Idolatry** is expecting God's Kingdom before its time and without its King.
- **Take your baptism seriously** because God does.



28