

State of the Dead

purpose: To show that man does not possess inherent immortality. Life is in Jesus Christ alone.

John 14:6

- What is life? Jesus!
- Life is not just a condition, life is a person- the person of Christ.
- So what is death? The absence of Jesus.

John 17:3

- Life eternal is knowing the Author of eternal life.
- It is knowing a person- the person of God.
- Eternal life begins here on earth with our relationship with God.

1 Timothy 6:16

- Jesus/God alone has immortality.

Acts 17:28

- In Him we live, and move, and have our being.
- Man depends upon God for existence.
- The life we have is borrowed. It belongs to God.

Genesis 2:7

- God made man out of two fundamental ingredients.
 - Dust (body) + breath (spirit) = living soul (being, creature)
 - Bible uses the word "soul" for people. (See Acts 2:41)
 - Use an illustration i.e. quesadilla, light bulb, PBJ.
 - Tortilla + cheese = quesadilla
 - In order to have life, both the dust and breath must be present.

Job 12:10; 27:3; 33:4

- God holds in His hand the breath (spirit) of all mankind.
- Breath/spirit in my nostrils is of God.
- Spirit/breath of God gave me life.
- Man was created with a spiritual component.

Genesis 3:19

- When man dies, he returns to dust.
- Also Ecclesiastes 12:7 says the dust will return to the earth.

Job 14:10-15

- When a man dies, where is he?
- He lies down, asleep, and won't be aroused until "my change come".
- "Sheol" is the Hebrew word for grave.

Ecclesiastes 12:7

- What happens after you die?
 - Dust will return to the earth.
 - Spirit will return to God who gave it.
- *Note corresponding verses Genesis **2:7** and Ecclesiastes **12:7**.
- **Transition:** What is meant by the term "spirit"?

Ecclesiastes 9:5,6,10

- The living know that they will die.
- The dead know nothing!
 - No reward, no memory, love, hatred, envy
 - No more interaction with anything done under the sun.
- Treasure the life that you have now, because there is no more opportunity in the grave.

Psalms 146:4

- At death, when your spirit departs, your thoughts (plans) perish.

Psalm 104:29

- When the spirit (breath) leaves man, he dies and his body returns to the earth.

Psalm 115:17

- The dead do not praise the Lord.

Acts 2:29, 34

- Bible calls David a man after God's own heart.
 - Name David appears more than any other name in the Bible- even more than Jesus!
 - Peter bluntly tells the crowd that David is dead. He clearly adds that David is not in heaven.

Ezekiel 18:4

- Souls can die.

John 11:11-14, 21-25

- Jesus uses sleep and death interchangeably.
- Sleep:
 - Unconscious of surroundings
 - A temporary state, eventually you have to get up.
 - Death, just like sleep, is unconscious and temporary.
- Martha understood that those who die in Jesus will be resurrected at the last day- she properly understood the state of the dead.

appeal: If we want to experience life here on earth and in the world to come, we need to find it in the person of Christ. Is there anything in your life that would keep you from experiencing life everlasting?

defend it:

- Example of a fallen angel claiming to be a spirit of the dead. 1 Samuel 28:3-end
 - Story of King Saul. He had fully abandoned God. Samuel dies and there is no longer a prophet of God to give messages to King Saul. Saul goes to a witch to try to access dead Samuel. An evil spirit masquerades itself as Samuel.
- Thief on the cross (Luke 23:42,43)
 - John 20:17
 - On Sunday morning, Jesus tells Mary that He has not yet ascended to His Father.
 - Jesus did not go to paradise on Friday, the day that He made the statement to the thief.
 - No punctuation in original Hebrew. Where should the comma be placed?
 - I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.
 - I say to you today, you will be with me in paradise.
- Souls that have died are under the altar in heaven (Revelation 6:9-11)
 - Book of Revelation is a very symbolic book. Can't take it entirely literally.
 - What does the term "under the altar" mean?
 - It is sanctuary language.
 - Leviticus 4:34
 - Blood was poured under the altar
 - Leviticus 5:9
 - Leftover blood of the sacrificial offering was poured under the altar.
 - Genesis 4:9-11
 - Abel's blood cried out from the ground.
 - Is this literal? No, blood of Abel was symbolically crying out to God for justice.
 - Abel was the first martyr.
 - Back to Revelation 6
 - Blood of martyred souls crying out to God to avenge them- symbolically crying out for justice.
 - Leviticus 17:11
 - Injustice is crying out to God for justice.
 - Not literal being under the altar, but merely symbolic blood.
- Jesus went and preached the in prison after He died (1 Peter 3:18-20)
 - Christ died and was dead.
 - Spirits in prison are not necessarily dead.
 - Time frame is from the days of Noah.
 - Phrase "by which" indicates that Christ preached by the spirit.
 - Was the spirit present during the days of Noah?
 - Genesis 6:3- Yes
 - Jesus was preaching by the spirit through the person of Noah.
 - Spirits in prison idea
 - Isaiah 61:1-3
 - This is Jesus mission statement.
 - Part of Jesus ministry was to open the prison to those who were bound. This is talking about a spiritual prison!

- Absent from the body, present with the Lord (2 Corinthians 5:1-8)
 - Three different categories
 - Earthly home- talking about earthly body. It is put off when you die.
 - Naked home- death.
 - Heavenly home- glorified body.
 - Paul is basically saying, I wish I could bypass death and get my glorified body. He says, "I'd rather". Paul didn't want to keep hanging out in his earthly house or be naked. He wanted to be with the Lord in his glorified body.
 - 2 Peter 1:13-16
 - Peter is saying that Christ has shown him that he would shortly die. (See the last chapter of John.)
 - 1 Corinthians 15:51-54
 - We shall not all sleep.
 - We will all be changed. What is the change? Putting on of our glorified body at the 2nd coming of the Lord.
- When our spirit goes back to God, what does the spirit do?
 - Spirit is like DNA, what makes me what I am (personality, character).
 - It goes up to God and is stored in/with Him.
 - At the resurrection, God inserts my DNA into my new glorified body!