

Only through Christ do we have the hope of a future life. If God had not been willing to give His Son to die in our stead, death would have been the end of man's existence. Since Christ came, lived a perfect life of obedience, died in our place, and was resurrected, we now have the hope of a future life - a glorious life in which sin, sickness, sorrow, and death will be forever banished.

God's plan for those who die before the coming of the Lord is well illustrated in the experience of Lazarus. Jesus told His disciples that Lazarus was asleep and then proceeded to show that He was speaking of the death of His friend as a sleep. When Christ told Martha that Lazarus would live again, Martha said, "I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day," *John 11:24*. She had listened to Christ's teachings. She looked forward to the final resurrection. Christ then demonstrated what will happen when He returns the second time. Standing at the open door of the tomb, He called, "Lazarus, come forth." The Bible says that Lazarus obeyed the voice of the Lifegiver and came forth, still bound in his grave clothes.

Later Christ proved that He had gained the victory over death by His own resurrection. This was the sign that His sacrifice had been accepted by His Father, and that He had gained the right to abolish death and the devil, for the Bible tells us, "Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, He also Himself likewise took part of the same; that through death He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil." *Hebrews 2:14*.

Thank God the victory has been gained and it can be ours by accepting the Victor as our Saviour. His death paid the price for our sins. Won't you accept Him today and be assured of eternal life at the soon coming of our Lord?

This subject is now clear to me. ☐

I would like additional information. ☐

I understand what God teaches in the Bible about death and want to be among those who will receive immortality at the second coming of Christ. ☐

COMMENTS:

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What The Bible Says:

Lesson 25

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About the Question, "Are the dead Alive?"

***Always pray before opening your Bible.
Find the text in your Bible and write the answer.***

A small lad, making his way through a graveyard, stopped to read an inscription on the headstone marking a grave. He was intrigued by the following epitaph: "Stop, my friend, as you go by. As you are now, so once was I. As I am now, you soon shall be. So prepare yourself to follow me." The boy stood there for some time thinking. Then, taking a piece of crayon from his pocket, he wrote this message: "To follow you I'm not content, until I know which way you went." The message he wrote may not be good poetry, but the thought expressed is a profound one.

Every person should be interested in what will happen to him at death. He should know just where he will go when the last breath leaves his body, for everyone faces death, sooner or later.

The Bible pictures death as an enemy of mankind. God tells us that the last of our enemies to be destroyed is death. Death came into the world because of the disobedience of Adam and Eve. In *Romans 5:12* Paul writes, "Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned." God had provided that man should eat of the tree of life and live forever. When man disobeyed God, he was deprived of this privilege. *Genesis 3:22, 23*.

Ever since death entered this world, Satan has worked long and hard to confuse the mind of man and to keep him from understanding God's