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The Answer to Death is Christ's Resurrection



By Steven J. Hogan

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The second worst problem in life is death, is that people physically die. The old and the young die. The rich and the poor die. The wise and the foolish die. People die because of alcohol, drug overdose, heart disease, cancer, diabetes, influenza, and accidents. They die because of war, famine, earthquakes, tornadoes, floods, and pandemics. They die suddenly and they die slowly. And many people are afraid to die because they don't know what happens after they die. Does death mean they cease to exist? Does death lead to something better, or something worse? What about heaven and hell? Will they see their loved ones again? What about reincarnation – is it true or just a lie from the devil? Is there any way to defeat physical death and keep living?

Doctors and nurses, with their treatments and medicines, can often help people physically live longer. But they can't help people live forever by keeping them from dying. Recently, we have been hearing about transhumanism, about scientists tapping into a person's mind and trying to hardwire it onto some microchip, so that when he dies, *"he"*, now a robot, can continue to *"live."* Some call this a new version of eternal life, but is this *"person"* really living, and can *"he live"* forever? No! What about a person who is made in God's image, and who, sooner or later, will die? Can this person really and truly defeat death?

Yes! Yes! Yes! God, who created man, has the answer to death. But before we can understand His answer, we must know why people die? And the reason people die is because of their sin – *"The wages of sin is death"* (Rom. 6:23). Sin is defined as not loving God, idolatry, greed, pride, disobedience, immorality, malice, selfishness, lying, etc. And sin always results in death, which is both physical and spiritual in nature. People physically die because of their sin (the exception are Christians alive at the end of the age who are raptured). And people are spiritually dead, are spiritually alienated from God because of their sin and, therefore, do not have the life of God in them. Without question, spiritual death is a person's worst problem. *"The soul who sins will die."* Ezekiel 18:4

You must realize that God can't ignore sin – He can't forget about it, He can't just let it go, He can't say it's no big deal. God is holy, perfect, and righteous, and He has to punish sin. And this punishment is painful, eternal, and deserved. Jesus will say to the unsaved, *"Depart from me accursed ones into the eternal fire"* (Matt. 25:41). *"These will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life"* (Matt. 25:46). *"These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord, and the glory of His power."* 2 Thess. 1:9

What is the answer to sin and death? How can you escape being eternally punished? How can you be saved from God's judgment, get

victory over sin, and live forever? The only answer is Jesus Christ. *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life"* (John 3:16). It's only through God's Son, through Christ, that you can defeat sin and death, and won't perish, won't be punished, won't go to hell, but will receive eternal life, will spiritually and physically live forever. 1 John 5:11-13

And what did Jesus Christ do? He died and rose again. He took your place and died on the cross to pay the penalty for your sins, enabling you to be forgiven – *"Christ died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, to bring you to God"* (1 Pet. 3:18). And He was raised again, thereby defeating death, enabling you to live forever. *"God raised Him up again, putting an end to the agony of death, since it was impossible for Him to be held in its power."* Acts 2:24

Forgiveness of sins and eternal life is only for those who repent of their sins and believe in Jesus, that He died to pay for their sins, and then rose from the dead. Jesus told us, *"The kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the gospel"* (Mark 1:15). *"If you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved"* (Rom. 10:9). If you have not turned from your sin and turned to Christ, then now is the time to do it. God really wants to show you mercy, and give you eternal life, and it's only through Jesus Christ. *"The wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."* Romans 6:23

Much more needs to be said about the resurrection, vital truths that relate to your own life.

* The resurrection of Jesus Christ is a central and essential truth, foundational to all of Christianity, to the entirety of your life, now and forever. 1 Cor. 15
* Since death is caused by sin, then Christ rising from the dead proves His resounding victory over both death, and the sin that caused it. Acts 2:22-33

* Christ’s resurrection validates His work, His death on the cross, showing that God is satisfied with Christ’s death, for it is a completed and all-sufficient payment for our sin.
* A person receives spiritual life when he is saved, when he is born again during his life on earth. But his spiritual life is hindered because he lives in a physical body that’s still tempted and prone to sin.

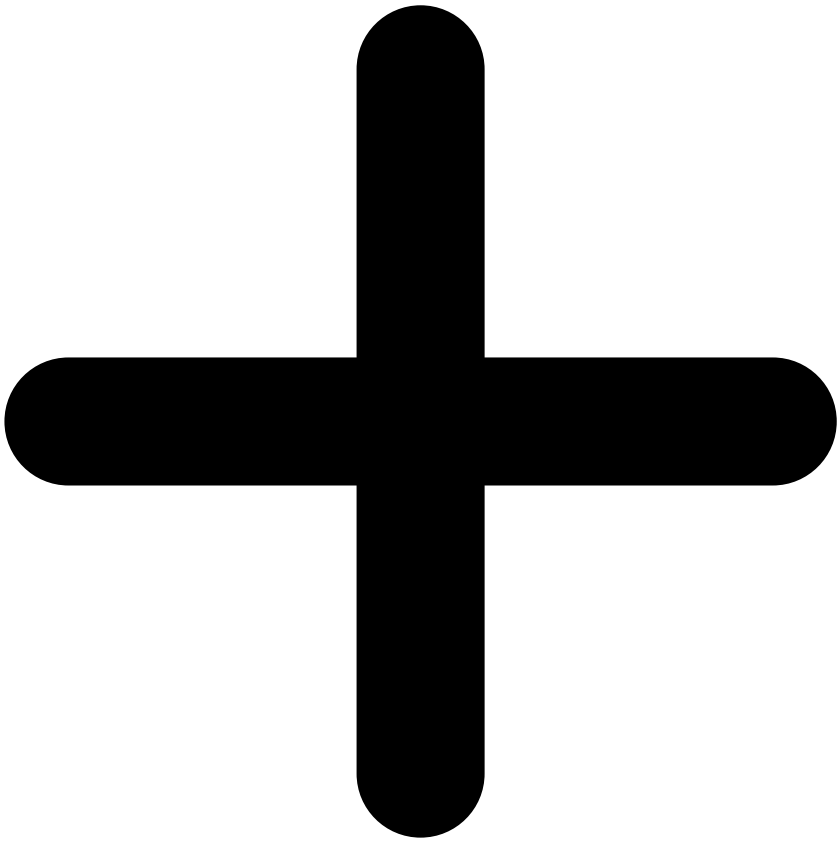
* A person is given a physical, spiritual, and glorified body at Christ’s coming, at which time believers on earth are raptured, and believers who have died are resurrected. Once a person has a new body, then he can spiritually and physically live a perfect life, just like God planned for him. 1 Cor. 15:42-44
* Christ speaks of the resurrection of life and the resurrection of judgment (John 5:29). The resurrection of life is for believers, occurring at the end of this age, at Christ’s coming. The resurrection of judgment is for unbelievers, and takes place at the end of the millennial kingdom. 1 Cor. 15:23, Rev. 15:11-15
* The resurrection is the cornerstone of Christianity for, without it, your preaching is worthless, your faith is useless, you are still in your sins, you do not have eternal life, you have no hope, you *“are of all men most to be pitied”*, and worst of all, you will be punished forever. 1 Cor. 15:12-19
* The resurrection is a message of hope, for it means you are victorious, you will be in heaven, you will receive a brand-new body, and you will be given a fantastic future. Rom. 8:18-30

* The truth of the resurrection means your short life on earth is only the beginning of an amazing and incredible life, of an endless and unbelievable eternity. 1 Peter 1:3-4
* Because of the resurrection, you were justified (Rom. 10:9), are being sanctified (Rom. 6), and will be glorified, will possess a perfect and immortal body. 1 Cor. 15:42-44
* Through the power of Christ’s death and resurrection, you have all the power you need to live every minute and every day for Him, now and forever. Eph. 1:19, Phil. 3:10
* Because of the resurrection, you do not need to fear death but, in fact,

should look forward to it, knowing that you have already defeated death, and that the best is yet to come. Ps. 23:6, Heb. 2:14-15

Jesus said, *“I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies, and everyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”* (John 11:25-26). That Jesus Christ died and rose again is the best news in the world, the news that will impact and change your life more than anything else! What a God we have who loves us so much that He gave us His Son to die for us so we can live forever with Him!! Thanks be to our great God and heavenly Father!!!

P.S. Here are three encouraging things to read that relate to this subject: something about the resurrection – *“The Resurrection and Rapture of the Believers”*, something about the present – *“Death and Life in the End-Times”,* and something about your future – *“Being in Heaven with Jesus, and the Believers, and in a New Glorified Body.”*



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