



All Christians' Fellowship International

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Bible Study Outline

Study to show "The Way of True life,"

TOPIC: Overcoming Death's Grip

TEXT: 2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Instructions: - *Let the above passages be read each time you come together to study this topic so that everyone could participate fully. The teacher should provide additional background information on the topic and come up with follow-up questions. Participants should be brief in their responses and use relevant Bible references to illustrate their points. They should be careful not to dominate the discussion to allow everyone to have an equal opportunity to participate.*

Introduction: As I walked to the pulpit to preach one Sunday, an usher handed me a note that a longtime church member had been taken to the hospital. We then prayed as a church family for this dearly loved man. When I visited his hospital room later that day, he told me that he wouldn't be around much longer. "I believe the Lord will take me home soon," he said. We talked a while longer and then prayed together. Tears burned my eyes as I left - not because I wanted to hold onto him, but because I would miss my friend. That night this faithful believer closed his eyes to all that surrounded him on Earth only to open them in the presence of Christ.

Death is the appointed end for every human being. The Bible calls death the last enemy (1 Corinthians 15:26). God hasn't answered all our questions about what lies beyond death's door, but he has told us enough that we can face that final valley without fear. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.

Discussion Questions

1. What death scene (either actual or from a book or movie) do you remember most vividly? Why did it make such an impact on you? What aspects of death or dying are most troubling to you?

2. What feelings does reading this passage prompt in you - anticipation? fear? concern? Explain why you feel this way.
3. What does Paul mean by "the earthly tent we live in" (vs. 1)? What is this "earthly tent" like according to Paul (vs. 1-4)?
4. What is the alternative to our present "tent" and what is it like?
5. How does the presence of the Holy Spirit guarantee what is to come after death (vs. 5)?
6. What is true of a believer who is "at home in the body," and why does that require a walk of faith (vs. 6-7)?
7. What is true of a believer who is "away from the body," and why does Paul prefer that condition (vs. 8)? How does this passage bring comfort and hope to us about Christians who have died?
8. Does Paul's confident declaration make you more secure or more insecure about death? Explain your answer.
9. What does Paul tell us about our future accountability to Christ (vs. 10)? Does this mean we somehow have to answer for our sins.
10. What hope can you offer a person who thinks death is the end of our existence?