

THE DOCTRINE OF DEATHS

I. Introduction:

A. This doctrine in part is designed to solve the interpretation of seemingly “problem” passages such as:

1. Luk.9:60: *“Let the dead bury their own dead.”*
2. Joh.11:26: *“and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die.”*
3. Luk.15:24: *“for this son of mine was dead, and has come to life again.”*
4. 1Cor.15:31: *“...I die daily.”*
5. Jud.12: *“...doubly dead...”*

B. In so doing it will categorize death in realms of both physical and spiritual realities.

II. Definition: Death is the ceasing of a state of being facilitated by a mechanics of separation.

III. Vocabulary.

A. Hebrew:

1. מוּת – muth: root, “to die”; bring death, kill, cause death, certainly die, destroy, slay, perished, took life.
2. מוּתָּה – maweth: dead, deadly, death, die, plague.
3. תְּמוּתָּה – timuthah: death, die.
4. דָּם – dam: literally means blood; used metaphorically for death, bloodguilt, bloodshed, homicide.

B. Greek:

1. θάνατος – thanatos: n.; death
2. θανατόω – thanatoo: v.; to put to death, made to die.
3. θνητός – thanatos: adj.; mortal, subject to death.
4. νεκρός – nekros: n.; dead, corpse.
5. νεκρόω – nekroo: v.; to put to death, consider as dead.
6. κοιμάω – koimao: lit. to put to sleep; used metaphorically to describe death; asleep, sleep, dead. Cp. 1Cor.11:30; 15:51; 1The.4:13

IV. Death in the physical realm.

A. Physical or mortal death.

1. For the unbeliever, it involves the soul leaving/separating from the body.
 - a. The body is temporal, the soul eternal. Mat.10:28a
 - b. The body (as with all physical death) decomposes back to the dust of the ground. Gen.3:19; Job 34:15; Ecc.3:20
 - c. The soul immediately is transferred to hell. Luk.16:22c-23a
 - d. The soul remains in that condition until replaced with a new body conducive to survival in the eternal lake of fire. Rev.20:15 cp. Mat.10:28b; Joh.5:29
 - e. The unbeliever post-death at all times is consciously cognizant of:
 - 1) Torment in hell. Luk.16:23,24
 - 2) Past life on earth. Luk.16:25
 - 3) A desire not to see earthly loved ones in the same situation. Luk.16:27-28
 - 4) The permanence of the situation. Luk.16:26

- f. Their death occurs in the midst of temporal pursuits and is unexpected. Luk.12:16-21
 - g. Principle: Mar.8:36,37; *“For what does it profit a man to gain the whole world, and forfeit his soul? For what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?”*
 - h. Application: Mat.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.”*
2. For the believer, it involves both the soul and the human spirit departing from the body.
- a. All believers receive a human spirit at the point of saving faith called the “new” or “inner” man. Eph.4:24; Col.3:10 cp. 2Cor.4:16
 - b. It is the human spirit that is the product of the Holy Spirit in regeneration and is the seed of God that abides in us. Joh.3:6; Rom.8:16; 1Joh.3:9
 - c. The soul and human spirit are given back to God who gave it. Ecc.12:7
 - d. Their existence awaits upon a new resurrection body conducive to the eternal life niche. 1Cor.15:42
 - e. Elect angels escort them to heaven (pre-resurrection believers). Cp. Luk.16:22a
 - f. They retain conscious cognizance as to their existence and being in heaven. Cp. Lazarus and Abraham in paradise, Luk.16:25; Phi.1:21-23; 2Cor.5:8
 - g. They are absent of any discomfort, called bliss. Luk.16:25b; implied by the term “paradise” Luk.23:43; 2Cor.12:4; Rev.2:7
 - h. There is no judgment, only reward. Rom.8:1 cp. 1Pet.1:4,5
 - i. There is no more pain, death or sorrow. Rev.21:4
 - j. There is no more sin. 1Cor.15:42-43
 - k. Will have a full realization of eternal blessing. 2Cor.4:16-18; 1Joh.3:2
 - l. Those that experience death through martyrdom will receive special blessing. Rev.14:13 cp. 12:11
3. Divine principles regulating physical death.
- a. God rules over death according to His directive and permissive will. Act.17:28; Psa.66:9; Job 34:14,15
 - b. God is the protection against death with His overruling will as the author of life. Deu.30:15-20; Psa.30:3; 118:18
 - c. While God controls life and death, Satan is the author of sin, the principle behind the law of death. 1Joh.3:8 cp. Rom.8:2; 1Cor.15:56
 - d. Therefore, while God authored the law of death (as seen in the Mosaic Law), Satan is the direct cause behind why the law exists.
 - e. God determines the time and manner of death. Ecc.3:2; 7:17; Rom.14:8
 - f. Although He enforces physical death upon the wicked as punishment for their sins, He would rather that they repent. Eze.33:11
 - g. Mortal death has an end. Rev.20:14; 21:4; 1Cor.15:26
4. Death as applied to the believer.
- a. The positive believer is kept alive by grace to attain maturity. Psa.119:17 cp. Pro.12:28
 - b. BD removes the fear of death. Psa.23:4 cp. 1The.4:13
 - c. The reversionist, including believers, dies the sin unto death. Pro.5:23; 8:36; 10:21; 12:28; 13:14; 14:12; 15:10; 19:16; 23:13,14; Deu.30:15 cp. Jer.21:8; 1Joh.5:16
 - d. There is no further opportunity to produce SG₃ after death. Psa.6:5 cp. Heb.9:27

- e. Dying grace is promised the +V believer. Psa.116:15; Phi.1:21
 - f. Church Age believers (“*dead in Christ*”) are promised resurrection. 1The.4:13-18
 - g. There will be believers in the Rapture generation that will not experience physical death. 1Cor.15:51-52; 1The.4:15-18
 - h. Christ died physically and faith-rested His resurrection. Psa.22:15; Isa.53:9; Mat.27:50; 1Pet.3:18 cp. Act.2:22-28; Heb.5:7
- B. Sexual death.**
- 1. Definition: the inability to have sex and therefore procreate.
 - 2. Abraham and Sarah as well as Zacharias and Elizabeth are examples of sexual death. Rom.4:19; Luk.1:7-25
 - 3. Their sexual prosperity in old age is the challenge with respect to SG₂. Rom.4:17-21
 - 4. Abraham and Sarah are the pattern for SG₂. Rom.4:12
 - 5. Sexual death can occur as DD due to phallic reversionism. Pro.5:1-12 esp. vs.11
- C. Capital punishment is a Divinely ordained prescription of death for certain offenses.** Exo.21:12, 15,16,17, et al cp. 1Tim.1:8-10

V. Death in the spiritual realm.

A. Spiritual death.

- 1. Definition: all men are born physically alive but spiritually dead via absence of the human spirit.
- 2. Mankind is born without a human spirit and is separated from God under spiritual death. Jud.19 cp. Col.2:13; Jam2:26
- 3. Spiritual death began with Adam and Eve in the garden through an act of disobedience to God. Gen.2:17 cp. 3:6
- 4. The penalty for eating of the tree was judgment of 2 deaths as literally in the Hebrew Gen.2:17 says “dying you will die” (מָוֶת תָּמוּת – moth [Qal inf. Absolute] tamuth [2sm/Qal IPF]).
- 5. The first death was spiritual that occurred immediately and Adam did not die physically until 930 years later. Gen.5:5
- 6. Spiritual death was passed on to Adam’s progeny through procreation. 1Cor.15:21-22
- 7. All men inherit the sinful nature of Adam called flesh and therefore slaves of sin. Rom.7:14
- 8. Where the sin nature/STA of Adam exists, the judgment is spiritual death. Rom.5:12 (*See Doctrine of the STA/OSN*)
- 9. Christ died spiritually on the cross for all men, which provides salvation as a potential. Rom.5:6,10; 6:10; Col.1:22; Heb.2:9
- 10. Spiritual death is canceled through regeneration by the Holy Spirit in the new birth. Joh.3:1-7; Rom.5:17,18; 2Tim.1:10
- 11. Faith in Christ is the mechanics. Joh.11:25-27
- 12. The death in view in Joh.11:26 looks at spiritual death cancelled forever.

B. The second death.

- 1. Definition: Spiritual death perpetuated for all eternity in the Lake of Fire for all who reject Christ (The Last or Great White Throne Judgment). Rev.2:11 cp. 20:11-15
- 2. It is only for unbelievers (of all time).
- 3. Unbelievers are said to be “*doubly/twice dead*”, denoting that because of spiritual death they are destined for the second death in the Lake of fire. Jud.12

C. Temporal death.

1. Definition: Time the believer spends experientially out of fellowship (in a state of carnality or reversionism). Rom.7:9-11 cp. 6:13; 8:6,10,13a; 1Tim.5:6
2. The believer experientially operates as the unbeliever in the realm of spiritual death. 1Joh.3:14
3. It looks at time spent under the rulership of the STA. Rom.8:6
4. Human viewpoint sponsors this death. Pro.14:12
5. The Mosaic Law (or any other system of legal works) only identifies what produces this death, it does not effectuate recovery from it. Rom.7:10-11
6. The solution is the command in Eph.5:14, “...Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead... ”.
7. The mechanics is the R_B technique of 1Joh.1:9.

D. Operational death.

1. Definition: Failure to produce Divine good production. Rom.6:13; Jam.2:26
2. This death goes hand in hand with temporal death.
3. The principle is that failure to apply BD is a sin. Jam.4:17
4. It is the application of applying BD that is the evidence of our passing out of spiritual death into life. 1Joh.3:14
5. It is evidence of isolation of the STA. 1Joh.3:14
6. When there is no application of BD, the faith in BD is said to be dead, being by itself. Jam.2:17
7. Fellowship with God demands not only isolation of the STA, but keeping the commandments. 1Joh.1:7; 2:6
8. Precedents to this reality are the patriarch and the prostitute of Jam.2:21-25
9. It is possible for the local Church to be operationally dead. Rev.3:1-2

E. Positional death.

1. Definition: Identification of the believer with Christ's death on the cross.
2. This death must be understood in the light of retroactive and current positional truth.
3. Via the baptism of the Holy Spirit, the believer shares everything Christ is. 1Cor.12:13
4. This includes His deaths on the Cross. 2Tim.2:11; Rom.6:3 cp. vss.2,4,5,6,8; Col.3:3
5. Our identification with His death is thus retroactive back to the cross.
6. Our current position in Him (Eph.1:3-6; 2:4-6) carries with it an experiential challenge. Col.3:1-2
7. That experiential challenge is isolation of the STA. Rom.6:4,6,11; 1Cor.15:31, “*I die daily*”; 1Pet.2:24
8. The filling of the H.S. and BD put to death the influence of the STA. Rom.8:12,13
9. Positional death is called “crucifying the flesh”. Gal.5:24

F. Death to sin:

1. Definition: Isolation of the STA. Rom.8:12-13
2. The mechanics is 1Joh.1:9.
3. It is separate from but correlates with temporal and operational death.
4. The challenge of our salvation is to die to the STA. Col.2:20; Rom.6:2,4,6,12; Col.2:20 looks at a legalistic reaction to the STA.
5. Isolation of the STA is equated with death. 1Cor.15:31; 2Cor.4:10; 1Pet.2:24; Rom.8:12,13
6. Following the analogy of “crucifying the flesh” looks at the reality that the STA does not die easily or quickly and only through physical death is it permanently killed.

VI. Jesus deaths on the Cross.

- A.** It was prophesied in the Old Testament that Jesus would under go more than one death. Isa.53:9, “*Yet He was with a rich man in His deaths* (plural noun of מָוֶת /maweth)”.
- B.** Phi.2:8 further looks at more than one death attributed to His Person.
- C.** Christ died two deaths, spiritual and physical.
- D.** Since death involves a separation, we must be sure to specify which death effectuates the removal of sin.
- E.** His spiritual death occurred when a separation of His humanity from fellowship with the Father was initiated on the cross. Mar.15:34
- F.** It was at that point that God the Father poured out in His body the penalty for sins. 2Cor.5:21
- G.** This spiritual death and the propitiation of sins that accompanied it, is also called “the blood of Christ”.
- H.** This term is used metaphorically in representation of animal sacrifice and the spilling of blood. Heb.9:13-14 cp. Lev.17:11a to note that the life source for animals is in the blood.
- I.** Propitiation of sins occurred under the first death, spiritual death that lasted for 3 hours, when the earth turned to darkness (Mar.15:33) ending with His proclamation that sin bearing “was finished” (Joh.19:30).
- J.** Physical death then immediately followed (Joh.19:30), the consequence of His body being contaminated with sin, releasing Him from the necessity of further adherence to the Mosaic Law that qualified Him as the Sacrificial Lamb.