

WHY ME? HELP AND HOPE FOR THE HURTING: FACTOR ONE

We Reap What Adam Sowed – The Curse/Chapter Four: The Final Destiny

If our human condition, the devil's position, and life's futility weren't enough to cause untold human suffering, there is a fourth component involved in the curse that makes the previous three pale in comparison. All the suffering of this life moves us toward a tragic end point with which we are all too familiar. However, adding to the tragedy of death is the deception that surrounds it. Death creates the perception that it is truly the end of life, in a final and permanent manner. But the Word of God emphatically tells us that this is not the case. Physical death not only marks the end of our earthly life, but also serves as a transition which ushers us into a state of being that will last forever. For those who go through this transformation fully under the curse, it will mean experiencing a negative and final destiny beyond our comprehension.

God clearly warned Adam and Eve about the adverse consequences that would occur if they disobeyed His command. Their encounter with death would involve both a termination of their physical life and a severance of their spiritual relationship with Him. The latter actually took place prior to the former (Genesis 3:8). Eventually, at the age of 930, Adam's earthly life came to an end as well (Genesis 5:5). Alienation from God, as well as the end of one's physical existence, are readily observable within our human experience. However, after the event of physical death, the culmination of the curse involves an entrance into an existence of eternal death, which cannot be observed on this side of our human experience. Scripture refers to this as the "second death." It consists of a permanent separation from God which lasts forever. It is entirely negative, without any of the positives that characterize life prior to our physical death.

Both the Old and New Testaments teach us about the eternal death which culminates the curse. To the non-Christian, the verses listed below should serve as a dire warning of the unimaginably adverse eternity which awaits them after death. For the suffering Christian, these verses offer no small measure of comfort, in reminding us that in spite of our current trials, we will never encounter the ultimate and eternal suffering of hell (1 Peter 4:17-19). For the unbeliever who is convinced that this life is all there is, my only question to you is this: "What if you are wrong!"

"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt." (Daniel 12:2)

"These will pay the penalty of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power. . ." (2 Thessalonians 1:9)

"And the devil who deceived them was thrown into the lake of fire and brimstone, where the beast and the false prophet are also; and they will be tormented day and night forever and ever . . . Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire (Revelation 20:10, 14-15)