

LOVE THAT WOULD NOT LET ME GO

See With New Eyes, Session 7

THE CROSS OF CHRIST is the zenith revelation of the God's character, making forever clear that the Creator of the universe literally loves you and me more than His own life. And that is extremely good news.

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TWO KINDS OF DEATH

According to the Bible, there are two kinds of deaths—the first death and the second death. The first death is the common death we all die of common physical causes, and from which there will be a resurrection. The second death, by contrast, happens only to the irrevocably wicked after they have been resurrected to face their life's record, and from the second death there is no resurrection.

Revelation 2:11—He who overcomes shall not be hurt by the second death.

Matthew 10:28—And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

Luke 8:49-55—⁴⁹While He was still speaking, someone came from the ruler of the synagogue's house, saying to him, "Your daughter is dead. Do not trouble the Teacher." . . . ⁵²Now all wept and mourned for her; but He said, "Do not weep; she is not dead, but sleeping." ⁵³And they ridiculed Him, knowing that she was dead. ⁵⁴But He put them all outside, took her by the hand and called, saying, "Little girl, arise." ⁵⁵Then her spirit returned, and she arose immediately.

John 11:11-14—¹¹He said to them, "Our friend Lazarus sleeps, but I go that I may wake him up." ¹²Then His disciples said, "Lord, if he sleeps he will get well." ¹³However, Jesus spoke of his death, but they thought that He was speaking about taking rest in sleep. ¹⁴Then Jesus said to them plainly, "Lazarus is dead."

Ecclesiastes 9:5—For the living know that they will die; but the dead know nothing.

Ecclesiastes 12:7—Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

John 5:28-29—²⁸The hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice ²⁹and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.

Revelation 20:6, 9-14—⁶Blessed and holy is he who has part in the first resurrection. Over such the second death has no power. . . . ⁹[The wicked] went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. . . . ¹¹I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. . . . ¹³The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades [the grave] delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.

SUBMITTING TO THE LIMITATIONS OF HUMAN NATURE

By means of the incarnation, God submitted Himself to the limitation of human nature so that He could genuinely suffer and die for us.

Hebrews 2:9—We see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

Hebrews 2:14—Inasmuch then as the children have partaken of flesh and blood, He Himself likewise shared in the same, that through death He might destroy him who had the power of death, that is, the devil.

Philippians 2:5-8—⁵Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, ⁶who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, ⁷but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness. ⁸And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!

SUPREME SACRIFICE

Jesus entered into the dark realm of the second death and vanquished its power by the greater power of selfless love. Having voluntarily submitted Himself to the limitations of human nature, He suffered the full-blown reality of complete separation from God. For a sustained period, He could not see life for Himself beyond the grave, thus demonstrating that God loves all others more than Himself.

Hebrews 9:26—He has appeared once for all at the end of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself.

Matthew 26:38-39—³⁸Then He said to them, “My soul is exceedingly sorrowful, even to death. Stay here and watch with Me.” ³⁹He went a little farther and fell on His face, and prayed, saying, “O My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.”

Luke 22:43—Then an angel appeared to Him from heaven, strengthening Him.

Matthew 26:53, TEV—Don’t you know that I could call on my Father for help, and at once He would send Me more than twelve armies of angels?

Matthew 27:46—My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?

Isaiah 53:6, 12—⁶All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned, every one, to his own way; and the LORD has laid on Him the iniquity of us all... ¹²He poured out His soul unto death, and He was numbered with the transgressors, and He bore the sin of (the) many.

Psalms 88:3-11—³My soul is full of troubles. . . ⁴I am counted with those who go down to the pit. . . ⁵like the slain who lie in the grave, whom You remember no more. . . ⁶You have laid me in the lowest pit, in darkness, in the depths. ⁷Your wrath lies heavy upon me, and You have afflicted me with all Your waves. Selah. . . ⁸I am shut up, and I cannot get out. . . ¹⁰Shall the dead arise and praise You? Selah. ¹¹Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

John 12:32—And I, if I am lifted up from the earth, will draw all peoples to Myself.

The Philips translation says that Christ laid aside His divine “privileges” and “advantages.” What divine privileges? When Christ became a man, He laid aside omniscience (Luke 2:40; Mark 13:32; John 10:18), omnipresence (John 20:17) and omnipotence (John 5:30; Acts 2:22), thus rendering His suffering in Gethsemane and at Calvary authentic.

Here “soul” is *psyche* in the Greek. On the meaning of “this cup” see Revelation 14:10.

See also John 10:18