Death

Intro: James writes, James 2:26: “26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”

This subject is one upon which we do not like to give serious consideration to. The reason is that death has a sting to it. In this lesson, we want to not only study physical death but also all the ways it is used in the Scriptures.

I. All Of Us Have Already Died Once.
   A. This may sound shocking, strange, or unreal to you.
      1. It is nevertheless a true scriptural statement.
      2. Some might ask, how and when?
         a. When we became sinners.
            (1) 1 Kin. 8:46 “46 If they sin against thee, (for there is no man that sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them to the enemy, so that they carry them away captives unto the land of the enemy, far or near;”
            (2) Ecc. 7:20 “20 For there is not a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.”
            (3) Rom. 3:23 “23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;”
            (4) Gal. 3:22 “22 But the scripture hath concluded all under sin, that the promise by faith of Jesus Christ might be given to them that believe.”
            (5) Jam. 3:2 “2 For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body.”
            (6) 1 John 1:8, 10 “8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.”
         b. Sin produces death.
            (1) Eze. 18:4, 20 “4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die…. 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”
            (2) Rom. 6:23 “23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
            (3) Jam. 1:15 “15 Then when lust hath conceived, it bringeth forth sin: and sin, when it is finished, bringeth forth death.”
         c. Thus, the sinner is referred to as one who is dead.
            (1) Eph. 2:1 “1 And you hath be quickened, who were dead in trespasses and sins;”
            (2) Col. 2:13 “13 And you, being dead in your sins and the uncircumcision of your flesh, hath he quickened together with him, having forgiven you all trespasses;”
   B. There are those who teach a child is born in sin and thus spiritually dead.
      1. Infants are not included in the classification of being dead.
      2. Only accountable, responsible persons are included.
      3. Sin is something we do or fail to do, not something we inherit.
         a. Eze. 18:4, 20 “4 Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: the soul that sinneth, it shall die…. 20 The soul that sinneth, it shall die. The son shall not bear the iniquity of the father, neither shall the father bear the iniquity of the son: the
righteousness of the righteous shall be upon him, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon him.”

b. 1 John 3:4 “Whosoever committeeth sin transgresseth also the law: for sin is the transgression of the law.”

c. Jam. 4:17 “Therefore to him that knoweth to do good, and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”

C. Why is this state referred to as death?
1. Death simply means “a separation.”
2. Isa. 59:2 “2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.”
3. This also clarifies how Adam and Eve died when they ate of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

II. Some Of Us Have Died Twice.

A. Those who have become Christians died in so doing.
1. The former death was in sin whereas the second death is to sin.
2. Col. 3:3 “3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.”

B. Why is this state referred to as death?
1. Again, death is a separation.
2. We, by obedience to Christ’s law, have put to death the old of man sin, thus separating ourselves from sin.
3. This was accomplished in baptism; Rom. 6:1-7 “1 What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound? 2 God forbid. How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
   3 Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?
   4 Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. 5 For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection: 6 Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin. 7 For he that is dead is freed from sin.”
4. How many of us can truthfully say we are dead to sin?

III. All Will Die Physically.

A. Heb. 9:27 “27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”

B. Man has the sentence of death upon him.
1. 1 Cor. 15:22 “22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive.”
2. Ecc. 9:5 “5 For the living know that they shall die: but the dead know not any thing, neither have they any more a reward; for the memory of them is forgotten.”
3. 2 Sam. 14:14 “14 For we must needs die, and are as water spilt on the ground, which cannot be gathered up again; neither doth God respect any person: yet doth he devise means, that his banished be not expelled from him.”
4. We should give serious consideration as to whether or not we are prepared to die; Psa. 92:12 “12 So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.”

C. Why is this state referred to as death?
1. A separation has taken place.
2. Jam. 2:26 “26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
3. Ecc. 12:7 “7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
D. There is a notable exception to this.
1. Those who are alive when Christ comes again.
2. 1 Thess. 4:15, 17 “15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: 17 Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.”
3. 1 Cor. 15:51-52 “51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.”

IV. The Last Death is Called the Second Death.
A. Described as such:
1. Rev. 20:14 “14 And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.”
2. Rev. 21:8 “8 But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death.”

B. Why is this stated called a death?
1. It refers to an eternal separation from God.
2. Why should it be called the second death?
   a. The second is in relation to God.
   b. The first therefore must also be in relation to God, thus when we sinned was the first.

Conclusion: All those who have not died to sin are not prepared for physical death and are only prepared for the second death. However, the second death holds no fear for those who are prepared for physical death by having died to sin. Are you prepared?