

meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Discussion Questions

- Why do you think Christians traditionally bury the dead?
- Why does it matter that we will have physical glorified bodies as well as our spirit?

Day 5 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When we discussed God’s effectual call, we talked about how He chose to redeem a people for Himself and calls them by His Spirit and saves them. With this effectual call come three primary benefits: justification, sanctification, and glorification, as well as others that flow from these. This gracious gift of God is not like a ticket to heaven or an IOU that we only benefit from once we die. No, there are many benefits that we can experience right now in our daily lives. And yet... there are more benefits that we will only experience after death, and they are even better! That is why we can face death without fear. I Thessalonians 4:13-14 *But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. Do you ever enjoy dessert after a meal? First, you get to enjoy the nourishing benefits of the main course, but then you get to bask in the delights of the sweet treat that follows. My (Shawn’s) family always had a tradition when I was growing up. If my mom had prepared a dessert that day, she tell everyone, “Keep your forks, the best is yet to come!” As we look to God for the strengthening benefits of salvation that come in this life, let us keep our forks, so to speak, and remember that the best is yet to come.*

Discussion Questions

- What do you most look forward to in eternity?

Baptist Catechism

Family Worship Guide



West Oaks Baptist Church

(in preparation for Sunday, June 16th, 2024)

Baptist Catechism Question #40

Q: What benefits do believers receive from Christ at their death?

A: *The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection.*

Suggested Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (ESV)

Day 1 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

For several weeks we have looked at the benefits of God’s effectual call while we are living here on earth. Life on earth is only temporary, though, and we will all one day die. What happens then? C.S. Lewis said, “There are no ordinary people. You have never talked to a mere mortal.” Although each of us has a beginning, we do not have the same kind of ending. We are actually immortal and will continue on to infinity. Yes, we will physically die and our hearts will stop beating, but that is not the end. The question is, will we spend eternity with God or in Hell? Christians should not be afraid of death. Paul says in Philippians 1:21 *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain*. He said living is to continue work for Christ but to die is an even better gain and reward. Matthew warned us in 10:28 *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell*. Christians have a promise from God in 2 Corinthians 5:1 *For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens*. We look forward to eternity with God in Heaven, and amazingly, God also looks forward to welcoming his children home one day. Psalm 116:15 *Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his saints*.

Discussion Question

- How is it helpful for a Christian to understand what benefits will come after death?
- What is the biggest amount of time you can imagine? A year? A decade? A Century? How does that compare with eternity?

Day 2 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

When Christians die, Scripture says they are with the Lord and many changes come with this physical death. After a lifetime of sanctification, at death our souls will finally be made perfect in holiness. As saints, we are released from our sorrows here on Earth (Is 33:24), are freed from our remaining corruptions and sin (Rev 14:5), and all of our trials and labors come to an end! (Rev 14:13) *The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns to God who gave it* (Ecclesiastes 12:7). We are introduced into a perfect state of righteousness as we stand before God (Hebrews 12:23). We enter into a perfect state of knowledge (1 Corinthians 13:12) as well as a perfect state of holiness (Revelation 7:14). God says He will *wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away* (Revelation 21:4). Everything will be made new and everything will be perfect (Revelation 21&22). Psalm 18:30 says *God—his way is perfect; the word of the LORD proves true; he is a shield for all those who take refuge in him*. We don’t and can’t fully understand heaven and eternity. These are things we can not yet see, but putting our trust in God’s Word and in His promises helps us to take refuge in Him as we wait for better things to come.

Discussion Questions

- As you struggle with daily sin, how is it encouraging to know that when we die we will be made perfect in holiness?

Day 3 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

While living here on earth, we have the Word of God to give us a glimpse of His glory, but after death God will receive us into His full glory (Psalm 73:24). It is God who is glorious, and just being in his presence we get to bask in His great glory (Rev 21:23). Take a look at who will be there! *But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel* (Hebrews 12:22–24). Our words will be like David. . . *As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness* (Psalm 17:15). We will spend eternity worshiping and trying to comprehend God. Ephesians 3:18–19 *to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God*. The glory of God is so vast it will never run out. We will never fully understand all of God, and yet we will get to spend eternity immersed in His glory.

Discussion Questions

- Have you ever been in the presence of someone who really impressed or awed you? How did it make you feel?
- What do you think it will be like to actually come into God’s glory?

Day 4 – Review Q&A and recite memory verse

Sometimes in scripture God promised people long lives (Genesis 15:15), but even these people eventually died. Their bodies returned to dust, and they were often placed in graves (Ecc 12:7). For thousands of years people have bought land and prepared places to bury the dead (Genesis 23:4). Today we have cemeteries all around because death is normal and common. What happens to Christians’ bodies when they die? How long are they there for? Are they temporarily cut off from God? Romans 8:38–39 says. . . *For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*. Many things are listed here but the first thing listed is death. Not even death can stop a connection with God or His love for us. Our spirits will be with the Lord, and although our dead bodies will rest in the grave for a season, they will rise again on Judgment day. 1 Thessalonians 4:16–18 *For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to*