

HC Q&A 42-43 – You have a Better Death and a Better Life in Christ

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

There is a proper way to die. God Word shows it.

And there is a benefit of dying properly: If you know you will have a proper death, you can be sure you will have a proper life now!

This is what you will hear about today.

Our headings are:

Christ's Death Guarantees a Better Death

Christ's Death Guarantees a Better Life

Our goals are: That **knowing Christ's death removes your fear of death, you will let it give you confidence to live victoriously now.**

Christ's Death Guarantees a better Death

42 Q. SINCE CHRIST HAS DIED FOR US, WHY DO WE STILL HAVE TO DIE?

A. Our death does not pay the debt of our sins. Rather, it **puts an end to our sinning** and is our **entrance into eternal life.**

1. You don't view death the way the world does.

Even if you die tragically, in an accident, or in war, and not always in your sleep, you don't view death as defeat.

Yes, you know death is a reality, but you know after death life comes – eternal life.

2. You must know when you die, death puts an end to your sinning.

This means **you are no longer offensive to your Creator and Re-creator.**

Your Creator and Re-creator will prefer that you don't sin while you live, but you will continue to sin. But you won't sin in heaven. **You will be confirmed in a state of righteousness** – something Adam failed to achieve for his descendants, but which the 2nd Adam achieved for you. Paradise will be restored.

Because you will be confirmed in righteousness, you won't be able to sin.

You will have **no more unbelief, doubts, fears, and the temptations** of Satan.

3. You must know when you die it is your entrance into eternal life.

"Everybody wants to go to heaven, but nobody wants to die" is true for the world but not for the Christian. When you die you immediately pass from death to eternal life.

You won't spend time waiting in the grave (soul sleep).

You won't be going through purgatory or some other intermediate stage.

You won't go into another person or into an animal-reincarnation.

All men won't be punished to a lesser or greater extent- as Muslims believe.

John 5:24 "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life.

Eternal life is a done deal.

1Thessalonians 5:9 For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, 10 who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with Him.

Dying is a net gain for the Christian. In death you get more than you have to give up.

Philippians 1:21 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain.

When you die you are freed from your troubles and trials of this life.

You won't have any diseases.

You won't lose your investments

You won't suffer the loss of loved ones.

You won't ever be disappointed.

As soon as you die you enter into God's presence and have the fullness of joy.
Gill: "*In heaven there will be everlasting habitations, into mansions of light, life, love, joy, peace, and comfort; is at perfect rest, and surrounded with endless pleasures...*"

Don't you want to go to heaven? Don't you look forward to it?

4. You have a better death because the sting of death was destroyed when Jesus died.

When something does not have a sting, it is no longer a threat. (Take the stings out of wasps and they only look dangerous!)

1Corinthians 15:54... "Death is swallowed up in victory." 55 "**O Death, where is your sting?**" O Hades, where is your victory?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. 57 But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory...

Death has lost its sting. Death cannot lock you up in hell.

5. You must not try to die, but you should not be afraid to die.

There is no shame in death. After the race, you get the prize.

Acts 20:24 "But none of these things move me; **nor do I count my life dear to myself,** so that I may **finish my race with joy...**

Make sure your children know this! Make sure your spouse knows this. If God calls them home, they would be ready and not be afraid.

6. But why would you want to live now since death seems so attractive?

Apostle Paul answered that. He loved the Lord and wanted to serve the Lord through helping believers and preaching the Gospel to non-believers. He couldn't do these things if he died.

So you must want to serve your spouse, your children, your friends, and the persecuted church.

So ask God for long life. You do so because **love is the force behind wanting to live.**

Love for your own joys will say: "Take me home now, Lord."

But sacrifice – agape love - will say: "I would rather be here to serve the brothers."

Philippians 1:23 For I am hard pressed between the two, having a **desire to depart and be with Christ,** which is far better. 24 Nevertheless to **remain in the flesh is more needful for you.**

Christ Death Guarantees a better Life

43 Q. WHAT **FURTHER ADVANTAGE** DO WE RECEIVE FROM CHRIST'S SACRIFICE AND DEATH ON THE CROSS?

A. Through Christ's death our old selves are crucified, **put to death,** and **buried** with him, so that the evil desires of the flesh may no longer rule us, but that instead we may dedicate ourselves as an offering of gratitude to him.

1. Christ gives you victory over sin and death because you were in him spiritually when he died.

Because of this, **in this life you now have renewed strength to “kill” sin and its desires.** You can count yourself as having been liberated! You can have victory...starting now!

Romans 6:8 Now if we died with Christ, we believe that **we shall also live with Him,** 9 knowing that Christ, having been raised from the dead, dies no more. Death no **longer has dominion over Him.** 10 For the death that He died, **He died to sin once for all;** but the life that He lives, He lives to God. 11 Likewise you also, **reckon yourselves to be dead indeed to sin,** but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dying to sin means that you no longer live for yourself, but you separate yourself from sin and live righteously.

How did this victory come? It came at a great price of Christ’s blood. It was free for you. God could not pay for it with gold, but he paid for it with the blood of Jesus.

Psalm 49:6 Those who trust in their wealth And boast in the multitude of their riches, 7 None of them can by any means redeem his brother, **Nor give to God a ransom for him—**8 For the **redemption of their souls is costly,** And it shall cease forever— 9 That he should **continue to live eternally,** And **not see the Pit.**

As a result of your redemption, you never have to die spiritually again - never. Jesus died once for all.

So much for those who believe you can have eternal life and then lose it. What a sad attack against God’s Word! Jesus did not die to give you multiple lives.

So much for Roman Catholics who believe they have to kill Jesus every day in the anti-Jesus Mass to atone for sins.

2. Because of your freedom Jesus secured for you, you are now able to live your life for God.

You live to please him: worship him, live for him, speak to him, listen to him, and speak for him.

Galatians 2:20 "I **have been crucified with Christ; it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me;** and the *life* which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself for me.

The more you live for God and the more you kill sin, the more you will bring glory to God and the greater the blessing you will receive in this life. (See how wonderful Christ's death is to your life now?)

Romans 12:1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Ephesians 5:2 And walk in love, as Christ also has loved us and given Himself for us...

3. When you now live as a Christian, you are not only able to please God, you are also able to save up for a better reward in heaven.

*Athanasius: Now that the common Savior of all has died on our behalf, we who believe in Christ no longer die, as men died before, in fulfillment of the threat of the law. That condemnation has come to an end; and now that, by the grace of the resurrection, corruption has been banished and done away, we are loosed from our mortal bodies in God's good time for each, so that we may obtain **thereby a better resurrection**.*

4. If you don't live your life for God now and you let your evil desires rule over you, you will bear the consequences.

Apostle Paul warned against falling into this trap...a trap that robs you of the joy you ought to have now.

Romans 6:12 **Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body**, that you should obey it in its lusts. 13 And do not present your members as instruments of unrighteousness to sin, but present yourselves to God as being alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God. 14 **For sin shall not have dominion over you**, for you are not under law but under grace.

Yes, the Christian life can become miserable if you fall and remain in sin. You will lose hope, you will hide yourself from God's people, and you will feel helpless. So put up your guard!

Conclusion:

As the redeemed of God through Jesus Christ, know that when you die in your body you will go to heaven and cash-in the capital and interest you have accrued in this life. There you will **enjoy the fullness of joy** and will be **freed from troubles and trials** that

are so common and overwhelming in this life. Knowing that, you can now live this life in freedom from worries, knowing the big matter of eternity has been taken care of.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. Don't be afraid of physical death. Its sting has been removed. Face it when it comes...even if it comes early. You are simply entering into your Father's home. That is not a bad place to be. In fact, it is most wonderful!

3. Live a good life today because you have a heavenly eternal inheritance. Sin and death no longer have power over you. Do the work the Lord has prepared for you to do. Fight sin now. You are able to have a successful life fighting sin. And you will be rewarded in life after death.

4. But while you continue in this life you must learn to die another death: you need to die to sin daily. Do not let sin rule you. Mortify it and live in victory. This is the only way you can live in victory.

Finally: If you are not a Christian, death must be a terror for you. There is life after death, but yours will be full of misery. And all you have in this world...some money...some fame...some power...but they are all gone in a short time. Only the one who relies on the Savior and asks for new life...will enjoy eternal life. Do you want this Savior? The benefits of his work are free to those who sincerely ask.