

The Revelation – The Second Death

Today I want to continue our series on The Revelation by looking at the last five verses of the 20th chapter. This Scripture says:

- (11) And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them.
- (12) And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.
- (13) And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works.
- (14) And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death.
- (15) And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

We're going to take a few minutes today to talk about death. Notice in this Scripture that two deaths are referred to. The first death is the death of the physical body. This is the death that we all have an appointment with according to Hebrews 9:27. This is what people most often think about as death. I think though, that as we really look at things, death is more than this.

Let's go back to a few moments to the very beginning. You see, to really understand the ending you must know the beginning. You can't skip to the end of the book and expect to understand it. In the beginning God created everything, including a beautiful paradise called Eden. He planted a garden there and put man in it. He gave man a choice. You see, God wanted man to serve him because he wanted to serve him, not because he had to serve him.

Man chose to disobey God's command. Adam, the first man, partook of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. At that point he became accountable for his sin. The wages of sin is death (Romans 6:23) because God had said that in the day that Adam ate of the tree he would surely die (Genesis 2:17). You see, when Adam ate of the fruit he became dead in trespasses and sin. He was no longer in communion with God. He was no longer the perfect man that God created. As a matter of fact, death came upon all flesh because of Adams sin. The earth began to groan and travail in pain (Romans 8:22).

The death that is spoken of here is, though, a twofold death. The first death comes about because the everything began to devolve. There began to be mutations which resulted in disease. There began to be all kinds of pain. Ultimately the body could not continue. After living lives hundreds of years long the people gave up the ghost and died. But what then?

You see, the death of the body is only the beginning of death. True death is what is described here in the Revelation. True death is, first of all, an eternal separation from God.

A person who chooses to live without God in this life will for eternity be without God. Satan will not be able to help.

This death goes further than that, however. It is next eternally remembering that there were opportunities in life to seek out God. It is a constant reminder of the things that were done against God.

That alone would be sheer torment, but it is not the completion of death. The second death is described here as a lake of fire. Jesus described it on many occasions as a place that burns with fire and brimstone. He also called it a place where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched. Now there are those who have tried to explain this in various ways, but what is clearly referred to here is that this death is the eternal burning of the soul.

Many today seem to think of hell as a place to party. This, also, is unscriptural. Hell is just large enough to receive those who enter in.

What about you today? If you were to give up the ghost today where would your soul spend eternity? There is hope. If you have never received Jesus Christ as your personal Savior I want to ask you right now to bow down on your knees, close your eyes, and ask Jesus to come into your heart and forgive you of your sins. If you'll do that in faith believing your name will be written in the Lamb's book of life and you will not have to fear the second death..

Yours in Christ,

Bro. John Rich