James #32

What is the difference between physical death and the second death?

Remember Memorial Day is not just a day off to party on the beach and have a cook-out. It is in remembrance of our combat warriors who gave their lives for our freedom.

Bianca in New England has requested prayers for Andrea Rickard. She is 87 years old and currently facing several serious health challenges.

Keep Bianca in prayer as well, she is helping this woman and also raising her teenage son.

Our brother in Christ - Robert D, also in New England, our Massachusetts police officer and faithful man of God has requested prayer for a close friend Jessica T.

She is also facing a medical issue.

We will open up today in 2Corinthians chapter five RF.

Our current study in James has us embarking on subject matter most people avoid….even many Christians.

The subject matter of death, which is inevitable.

Pastor James is bringing some of the arrogant Bels in Jerusalem back into focus on true faith, grace and the reality that GOD looks at the heart, while man looks at the exterior.

/Jam 1:11 For the sun rises with its scorching **heat and withers the grass; and its flower falls off** and the beauty of its appearance is destroyed; **so also the rich person, in the midst of his pursuits, will die out.\**

The glaring difference of how GOD sees this temporal life and how mankind views their temporal life, is so profound it is like comparing a pure bar of gold, to an old penny.

/Physical death is a separation of soul from the flawed flesh (body). The Second Death is a reference to what all Unbels will face at the moment of physical death, the temporal time clock will have run out. They will stand before the Great White Throne Judgment in a type of, resurrected body of shame and have one last statement to prove their own righteousness and merits to enter eternal glory, or face everlasting misery.\

When a Bel dies and other Christians remain in misery and especially even becoming angry toward God, it is extremely childish and selfish.

It displays their love of this fallen world and their true lack of faith in the Bible.

 REPEAT

As you go to 2Cor 5 – look at how Jesus addressed death;

/Mat 8:21 And another of the disciples said to Him, “Lord, allow me first to go and bury my father.” 22 But Jesus said to him, “Follow Me, and let the dead bury their own dead.”\

Jesus was using some tough love to teach a lesson – a funeral is a man-made ritual. It is a great opportunity to evangelize.

Yet other than giving the immediate family a reason to come together for a few fleeting memories - it holds no eternal value.

This is why it is so important to use the time GOD gives you right now, Jesus taught a hard lesson about how attached we are to the details of life.

 REPEAT

/1Cor 5:1 For **we know that if our earthly tent which is our house is torn down,** we have **a building from God**, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens.

***IF*** is a 3rd class condition, because there is a probability some will never face physical death, instead they will face the Rapture.\

Don’t miss that subtle point in the original language.

There is no teacher, or pastor or apostle, that could ever identify the time and date of the Rapture, all they would state, was just that it is an imminent event.

/1Cor 5:1 – *we have a building from God,* *oikodomē;* a structure of stone, marble and compared to a tent, it will last forever. It also means to construct and build up and edify. Our human body is referred to as a tent in scripture, tents can never last as permanent dwelling places, they are temporary.\

OH-COIN-DA-MAY, was often a reference to the buildings in the Greek, like large temples made of marble and stone.

[2Co 5:2](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/2/s_1083002) For indeed, in this *tent* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven,

The Apostle Paul is a mature Bel – he understands this temporal life and he embraces eternal glory.

The groaning of the flesh speaks to the weakness in our flesh.

/[2Co 5:3](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/3/s_1083003) since in fact after putting it on, **we will not be found naked**.

The perfect YOU will be the resurrected body with your soul fully filled and forever occupied by the NEW spirit, the new nature.\

No more distractions from the OSN.

Fully committed and embraced into GOD’s divine dwelling.

/[2Co 5:4](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/4/s_1083004) For indeed, we who are in this tent groan, **being burdened**, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that **what is mortal will be swallowed up by life**.

Inside of the body is the soul which is immortal. The body is mortal, subject to decay and death. Immortal means not subject to death.\

[2Co 5:5](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/5/s_1083005) Now He who prepared us for this very *purpose is* God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge.

The pledge of the SPIRIT is seen as a down payment in time – once we were born again we were sealed by the ministry of God the HS.

Meaning, God the HS will always be with us.

Just as FATHER, SON and SPIRIT are unified, we are super-naturally joined into that spiritual power forever.

We do not become GOD, don’t misinterpret this – we are given a spirit of God.

It is like a medical implant that is super-natural.

 REPEAT

God can never go back upon HIS word, we are given a pledge at salvation, a covenant in the blood of Jesus Christ.

/[2Co 5:6](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/6/s_1083006) Therefore, **being always of good courage**, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—

Meaning to keep on (Gr present tense) being boldly confident in the power and plan of GOD.\

Our confidence and the whole confidence of everything in the Bible was fulfilled when TLJC, went to the cross – died, was resurrected, walked among us in resurrected glory and ascended back to heaven, then sat down at the throne.

The person and work of Jesus Christ is the center of everything.

So, as growing Bels - We recognize our human condition – we are not morbid and seeking physical death. But as we mature, we do long for finally being in the presence of TLJC.

[2Co 5:7](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/7/s_1083007) for we walk by faith, not by sight—

/[2Co 5:8](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/8/s_1083008) but **we are of good courage** and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to **be at home with the Lord**.

Physical death is a reality for all of us, except one generation who faces the time of the Rapture. The Christian dies once physically and then they are immediately face to face with the LORD.\

[2Co 5:9](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/2co/5/9/s_1083009) Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him.

That is the right outlook…the attitude of the mature Christian.

Wanting to please TLJC is natural and a result of growing into your sanctification.

/There will always be some form of nervous energy or questions. There will even be a slight fear about facing physical death. It should be related to pain or leaving loved ones behind, yet many Christians have overwhelming doubts, fear and even anxiety over physical death. Many live habitually in these emotions which is evidence of spiritual weakness in faith and a void of accurate doctrine in the soul.\

No one wants to be in a position of physical weakness and pain, just as no one feels completely comfortable leaving loved ones behind.

But all-consuming anxieties, doubts and crippling fear is a victory for Satan.

It shows his fallen army, that you are still under their influence. You will have no spiritual impact in this temporal life.

 REPEAT

There is no greater doctrine to help you gain confidence, then eternal security – God gave you HIS pledge, a legal covenant, you were sealed at salvation…one and done!

Jump over to Philippians chapter 1.

/Rom 8:38 For **I am convinced** that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers,

The Apostle Paul is stating, in a bold confident proclamation – as he lists all the arguments against eternal security.\

The Apostle Paul who was an expert in OT scriptures and completed the majority of the NT – has no doubt once we are saved we are always saved – we are destined to heaven.

No more sorrow, no more tears, no more a pain, in perfection forever with TLJC.

/[Rom 8:39](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rom/8/39/s_1054039) nor height, nor depth, nor **any other created thing will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.**

You are IN CHRIST – HE in you, you in HIM, this can never change!\

The Apostle Paul has taught this principle in many aspects of his writings.

The principle that after salvation we begin to grow and we begin to become more in tune with the future eternal life…our position then our daily condition.

He taught eternal security as much or more than even within some of the earthly lesson Jesus taught on the subject matter.

/Phl 1: 21 For to me, **to live is Christ, and to die is gain**. 22 But if *I am* to **live *on* in the flesh, this *will mean* fruitful laborfor me**; and I do not know which to choose.

The Apostle Paul lived in maturity for most of his walk – occupied by Christ. Yet when he would face death, he knew full well that was the true eternal treasure.\

IF – is a first-class condition.

The Apostle Paul is speaking boldly, that I am alive and I will continue forward to grow and bring forth fruit in my mission as an apostle.

Though he has a deep longing within to finally be face to face with the LORD.

[Phl 1:23](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/phl/1/23/s_1104023) But I am hard-pressed from both *directions,* having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for *that* is very much better;

/Phl 1:24 yet to remain on **in the flesh is more necessary for your sakes**.

Notice, the mature Bel is focused on others. Focused on the temporal mission we are called into after salvation.\

Let us close today by reading from Revelation chapter 20.

So, we know physical death is something all of us face – unless the Rapture occurs. The second death is the continuation of spiritual death into eternity.

/Heb 9:27 And just as it is destined for **people to die once**, and after this *comes* **judgment**,

Physical death ends the opportunity for salvation and therefore judgment is inevitable at that point. The second death points to a permanent separation from GOD – this is for the Unbeliever.\

In Revelation chapter twenty, we see the final judgement called the Great White Throne Judgement. This is much different than the Bema Seat Judgment of Christ for CA Bels.

Rev 20:12 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another book was opened, which is *the book* of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds.

The books – plural, speak to God’s divine record section in the Justice department of heaven.

This verse – REV 20:12 points directly to all Unbels in human history. Then you see the fallen angels, and demonic spirits of the Nephilim brought into the final judgment in verse 13.

[/Rev 20:13](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/20/13/s_1187013) And **the sea gave up the dead**who were in it, and **Death and Hades gave up the dead** who were in them; and they were judged, each one *of them* according to their deeds.

This represents deep holding cells and spiritual compartments within the earth, where fallen angels and disembodied, demonic spirits of the Nephilim have been held.\

This why I often tell you there is as much mystery about what is hundreds of miles below our feet, as there are hundreds of miles above the skies overhead.

[Rev 20:14](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/20/14/s_1187014) Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire.

There it is – the second death happens at the final judgment.

[/Rev 20:15](https://www.blueletterbible.org/nasb20/rev/20/15/s_1187015) And **if anyone’s name** was not **found written in the book of life**, he was **thrown into the lake of fire**.

This is the book of everyone who shares the righteousness of Christ, the only way into heaven. IF – matter of fact 1st class condition. \

The tragic truth in all this, is that all members of the human race were originally in the book of life.

Everyone who is born has their name in the book of life from eternity past. Yet when they enter physical death, without accepting Christ as savior their name was blotted out.

So, the book of life at the end of human history, at the end of the Millennium, is a legal and final registry of Believers only who enter eternal glory in heaven.