

CHRISTIAN DOCTRINE BASICS

GBC EQUIPPING HOUR | AUGUST 4, 2019



Class 13: Introduction to Sin – The Effects (Two Deaths)

PURPOSE: To refine the categorical (topical) way we understand the Scriptures helping us conform to Christ.

I. Hope Revisited from Class 12 (Romans 5:12-21)

Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned—¹³ for sin indeed was in the world before the law was given, but sin is not counted where there is no law.¹⁴ Yet death reigned from Adam to Moses, even over those whose sinning was not like the transgression of Adam, who was a type of the one who was to come.

¹⁵ But the free gift is not like the trespass. For if many died through one man's trespass, much more have the grace of God and the free gift by the grace of that one man Jesus Christ abounded for many.¹⁶ And the free gift is not like the result of that one man's sin. For the judgment following one trespass brought condemnation, but the free gift following many trespasses brought justification.¹⁷ **For if, because of one man's trespass, death reigned through that one man, much more will those who receive the abundance of grace and the free gift of righteousness reign in life through the one man Jesus Christ.**

¹⁸ Therefore, as one trespass led to condemnation for all men, so one act of righteousness leads to justification and life for all men.¹⁹ **For as by the one man's disobedience the many were made sinners, so by the one man's obedience the many will be made righteous.**²⁰ Now the law came in to increase the trespass, but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more,²¹ so that, as sin reigned in death, grace also might reign through righteousness leading to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.

II. The Reaches of Physical Death

A. First, Physical Decay. While God allows much of the beauty of his creation before the Fall to remain after the Fall, it's a scientific fact: the Universe is wearing down from the inside out.

1. Under the Microscopic Lens (Leviticus 13)
 - a. Disease.
 - b. Things clogged, worn off, unhinged.
 - c. Other:

2. By Natural Observation (Genesis 3:17-18)
 - a. Posture.
 - b. Response time.
 - c. Other:

3. Through the Telescope (Romans 8:22)
 - a. Planets pulverized by asteroids.
 - b. Stars depleting their energy.
 - c. Other:

B. Then Physical Death. You've heard the saying "death is a part of life." But the Bible disagrees. God designed life but he did not design death. Death is man's doing (Rom. 5:12), interrupting God's goodness.

1. Under the Microscopic Lens (Genesis 3:19)
 - a. No blood flow and closed arteries.
 - b. Body's molecular decomposition.
 - c. Other:

2. By Natural Observation (Psalm 103:15-16)
 - a. Carnivores in air, on land, under water.
 - b. Floods, hurricanes and forest fires.
 - c. Other:

3. Through the Telescope (Mark 13:24; 2 Peter 3:10)
 - a. Dead planets found everywhere.
 - b. Exploding stars (1 every second?).
 - c. Other:

III. The Reaches of Spiritual Death

- A. Spiritual Death in this Life. Without faith in Christ, man remains spiritually dead. This does not mean he cannot do any 'good'. Rather it means even his best days yet stand in opposition to the Triune God.
1. Vertically (John 3:36; Romans 1:18-32, 3:9-12, 18; 1 Corinthians 2:14; Ephesians 2:1-3; Ps. 14:1)
 - a. Enmity up, down both ways.
 - b. People suppressing God's law/presence.
 - c. Other:
 2. Horizontally (Romans 3:13-17; Matthew 15:18-20)
 - a. Breakups, backbiting, bitterness.
 - b. Manipulation, lying, deception, abuse.
 - c. Other:
 3. And in the mirror (1 John 2:16; Proverbs 16:2)
 - a. Inflated view of self (pride).
 - b. Self-sufficiency, worry, self-mutilation.
 - c. Other:
- B. Spiritual Death in the Next. The place of eternal judgment differs from life on this fallen earth in several ways. In hell there is no hope of the gospel, there is no visage of paradise with rain and sun, there is no reprieve from the reaping and sowing effects of one's own sin.
1. Vertically (Revelation 20:11-15, 21:8, 22:11, 15; 1 Thessalonians 5:3)
 - a. Endless doom realized.
 - b. No spiritual light, no helpful direction.
 - c. Other:
 2. Horizontally (Matthew 25:41; Luke 16:20-31)
 - a. Brother Beelzebub.
 - b. No place to party.
 - c. Other:
 3. And in the mirror (John 8:44; Revelation 19:17-20)
 - a. No sense of the light of humanity.
 - b. Self-identity more with the father of lies.

IV. **Where Do We Go From Here?**

A. Put Graveyards Back on the Church Property

1. In older times, when people exited the church building they would see tombstones. Walking down, not only would the parishioners remember the saints of old, but they would *be reminded that someday their day would come as well.*
2. Obviously, modern zoning laws don't allow us to do everything that was done hundreds of years ago. But churches can still preach mortality. The lie of the Devil is that "you're going to live forever." Cemeteries and mortuaries say otherwise. True gospel preaching preaches a thorough bad-news message to prepare the listener for the Good News of Christ's triumph over death for those who "repent and believe."

B. Make Death Work for the Christian Life

1. Die to sin (Romans 6).
2. Regard your old life as a dead shell stuck in the ground prepared for sprouting to the resurrection (1 Corinthians 15:37-49).

Christian Doctrine Basics Course Outline:

- Sin – Opposite Holiness
- Sin – "Original Sin"
- Sin – the Effects (Two Deaths)
- Salvation – Election
- Salvation – "Repent and Believe!"
- Salvation - Justification

(...More to come...)