

► Intro:

- Ec. 7:2 “It is better to go to a house of mourning than to go to a house of feasting, Because that is the end of every man, and the living takes it to heart.”

- **paint picture:** imagining what it will be like when we close our eyes in death, and cross over

- **lesson:** death, in the Lord

- **much we don't know**, many questions unanswered to God's word – we **walk by faith**
- **this lesson examines the little bit we know** from God's word

► Our spirits never die

- Gen. 1:26-27 **God created man**, own image, **eternal spirit**

- our bodies will die, but our spirit lives forever – little voice inside of you, when you talk to yourself

► - Ec. 12:7 when our bodies die they return to the earth, but our spirits return to God, who gave it

- our spirits never die – they're immortal

- **are spirits are immortal, but our bodies are not**

- though our bodies dies and our spirits depart, it doesn't die

► When we die, we go to be with the Lord – Christians

- Phil. 1:21-23 **Paul, depart (die) and be with Christ**

► - 2 Cor. 5:4-9 absent from the body and at home with the Lord (vs. 8)

- Ps. 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones.”

► - Rev. 20:4-6 Christians who die go to be with Jesus, and reign with Him during the thousand years

- prior to 2nd resurrection, and judgment (Rev. 20:11-15)

- Lk. 16:19-31 **rich man and Lazarus**, die, Hades, rich man tormented and Lazarus in Abraham's bosom

- may have difficulty reconciling this to later revelation where we learn there are two resurrections, after Jesus ascended to heaven

- conclusion: **saints in a place of comfort after death**, till the time of the resurrection, and with the Lord (Christ)

- God is the God of the living, not the dead (Matt. 22:32)

spirits never die, go to be with the Lord when we die

► When Jesus comes again. . . . – comfort one another with these words

- salvation

- **Heb. 9:27-28** Jesus appear 2nd time, for **salvation**, without reference to sin (not to bear our sin by dying on cross again), to those eagerly awaiting Him

► - take saints to heaven

- **1 Th. 4:13-18** voice of archangel, trumpet, **Jesus bring saints** with Him, **Christians on earth rise up** and meet Him in the air, always be with the Lord

- paint picture: coming of Jesus in air, rising up

- **Phil. 3:20-21** citizenship in heaven, eagerly wait for a Savior (Jesus), transform the body, conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power

- **1 Cor. 15:50-57** changed in a twinkling of an eye, at last trumpet, dead rise imperishable, perishable put on imperishable, death swallowed up in victory, God gives us victory through Jesus

- paint picture: change, transformation, Jesus exerting power

► - world burned up with fire

- **2 Pet. 3:3-4, 7, 10-12** coming of Christ, present **world reserved for fire**, kept for the **day of judgment**, earth **burned up**

- paint picture: earth burning up

- **2 Th. 1:7-9** Jesus comes with His angels in flaming fire, dealing out **retribution** to those who do not know God and to those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus, **pay the penalty** of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power

- paint picture: sad, pain and anguish, punishment

► Judgment

- everyone judged

- **Heb. 9:27** appointed for men to die once, and after this comes the judgment

- **2 Cor. 5:10** we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad

- **Rev. 20:11-13** judgment scene described in Revelation

► - judgment begins with the household of God, then saints judge the world and angels

- **1 Pet. 4:17** judgment begins with household of God

- paint picture: Christians being judged (elders, deacons, parents, children, preachers)

► - **1 Cor. 6:2a, 3a** then saints judge the world and angels – with Jesus (2 Cor. 5:10)

- paint picture:

- Christians judging unbelievers (Presidents, movie stars, rock stars, criminals, etc.)

- angels (Michael, archangel)

spirits never die, go to be with the Lord when we die, when Jesus comes. . . . , judgment

► **Each person enters his eternal abode**

- **Rev. 20:14-15 second death, thrown into lake of fire**, where God had thrown the devil
 - **paint picture:** lake fire and brimstone, thrown there, eternal punishment, pain, live eternally with devil and worst people ever to live

► - **Rev. 21:1-8 saints enter heaven, eternal life, new Jerusalem** (the Paradise of God)

- **paint picture:**

- having the glory of God (vs. 11)
- described as a city that more magnificent in beauty and size than humanly conceivable (vs. 11-27)
 - when the saved get to heaven, what a day of rejoicing that will be

► **Summary / Inv.**

- **1 Cor. 15:42-45** Jesus came to earth, preached the gospel and died on the cross, so we could be saved and go to heaven

- **Jesus, life-giving spirit (vs. 45)**

- **inv.:** we you obey Him, so you can go to heaven when you die