

**TO THE GROUP LEADER:** This resource is designed to help you lead others to better understand one of the “Basics of the Faith” booklets published by P&R. The numbers in brackets indicate the page number in the booklet. Below each question is an answer based on what the author presents, or advice on how to discuss the question. You have the freedom to adapt the questions to best fit your group.

A good teaching technique is to distribute the questions to the group and have them write down how they would answer BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, members can refine their answers based on their reading. As a group, members can discuss their views to affirm or modify what they wrote.

1. What do you think it will be like one minute after you die? (5-7)

Give the class time to verbalize what they thought before reading this booklet, but have them hold off on how they might have changed their minds.

What do you think it will be like one minute after an unbeliever dies?

2. Is death ever, even for the Christian, a good thing? (7-12)

God did not create man to die. Man dies because of his sin. Death is our enemy. Even though we will be with the Lord, we will also suffer the loss of everything and everyone we leave behind. If death had never entered the world, there would never have had to be the suffering of this painful loss. We, believers, at least have much to look forward to. The unbeliever, however, has only more tragedy ahead. Read the quote from Shaw on page 10.

3. What do you fear most about your own death? (12-13)

Most will try to answer by saying things like: “It is not death I fear, but the possibility of suffering right before it.” Try to get them past that and talk about what they fear about going through the death experience.

4. This should be an obvious question, but what happens to our bodies when we die? (13-15)

Although the answer is obvious, read to the group the first paragraph on page 14, along with the verses in the middle of page 15. Briefly discuss cremation vs. burial.

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 and 1 Corinthians 15:17-20.<sup>1</sup> There are those Christians, like the Seventh Day Adventists, who teach that when we die we do not go directly to be with the Lord, but sleep. Is this what the Scripture really means? (16-17)

The language of our falling asleep instead of dying is so much more comforting. But, as Phillips says, “...it simply describes the appearance of one’s body in the state of death.” There are many clear passages teaching that “our souls are fully active after death.”

6. If the soul sleeps with the body until the Resurrection, then what sense does Philippians 1:23 make? (17-18)

It would be far better for Paul to stay here on earth to help the early church than to die and sleep in his grave. Paul’s emphasis here is how much better it is to be with the Lord *now* – right after death.

7. What does the Devil have to do with Hell? (19)

<sup>1</sup> See also: John 11:11-12; Acts 7:20; Acts 13:36; and 1 Corinthians 15:6.

It is often assumed Satan is in charge of Hell. This is not what the Scriptures teach. Hell was created for Satan and his demons as their final reward for their rebellion against the Almighty.

8. How “fit” are you for Heaven? Wouldn’t it be better if there were a place to go after death where we could be “purged” of our remaining sin and made fit for Heaven? (19-20)  
Roman Catholicism has a misleading view of God’s holiness, believing we can be forgiven by Christ’s death PLUS our own merit. One sin was enough to plunge this world into the mess it is in. We would have to spend eternity to pay for one sin and we would still fall short. Only Christ could pay for sin. And this He did – ONCE for all!
9. Ok. You were saved on the basis of the finished work of Jesus. When you die, you live with God until the final Judgment. Does that mean that at that Judgment you might not remain with the Lord? (21-28)  
If this were true, no man could ever say he was truly saved. At that final Judgment, we will be rewarded for what we have done in serving Him. We will be acquitted of our sinful works when Jesus stands in as our advocate [The last need anyone will ever have for a lawyer!], explaining He has already paid the penalty in FULL!
10. Where will we, as believers, spend eternity? Hint: it is not Heaven. (28-30)  
In the end, God will remove Genesis 3 – Revelation 20 (the period of sin). God will clean up the mess we have made of creation and make it like He intended from the beginning. Heaven and earth will become one. God and man will once again dwell together in paradise. We will get back all we lost at the Fall. Praise God, we win in the end!

After going through these questions, read the text and fill in the answers in preparation for class, noting other questions you might have. [By the way, if you do have any other questions about what you read, write them down here so you remember them at class time.]

## APPLICATION

1. Read 2 Corinthians 13:5-6. After reading about the blessed hope believers have to look forward to, the question remains: Do you have the absolute assurance you will have all this to look forward to in the future? If not, it is time for you to repent of your sins and ask Jesus to become your Lord and Savior. Talk to one of the elders of your church. Don’t wait. You have no idea how long you will be on this earth.
2. If you **know** you are going to Heaven, the question for you is this: Are you living your life in such a way you will not be embarrassed when you stand before the Lord on that Judgment day? What things are in your life that will embarrass you - both the things you are doing and the things you are failing to do? Start praying and making a plan to rid your life of the sin which keeps making you fall. Don’t put it off again. Find a mature Christian in your church who can work with you and help carry you through your times of struggle.

## For Further Study

*Life Everlasting: The Unfolding Story of Heaven*, Dan C. Barber and Robert A. Peterson. P&R, 2012.  
*What Happens After I Die?* Michael Allen Rogers. Crossway, 2013.

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