

TO THE READER: A good learning technique is to answer the following questions BEFORE reading the booklet. After reading, you can refine your answers based on your reading. Then, when your group gathers, each can discuss his or her view and you can either affirm or modify what you wrote.

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

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)

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

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

5. Read 1 Thessalonians 4:14-15 and 1 Corinthians 15:17-20.¹ 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)

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

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

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

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)

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)

10. Where will we, as believers, spend eternity? Hint: it is not Heaven. (28-30)

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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