

*T*he death of a loved one can leave us devastated, confused, angry, and drained. It can raise questions we have never faced before:

Where are our loved ones after they die?

Can they see into our life here?

Will we ever see them again?

Does everyone go to heaven?

How will I make it now?

*Do I need to feel guilty for not doing more
before my loved one died?*

THE BIG QUESTION

*T*he questions that swirl through our minds

when a loved one dies can leave us feeling overwhelmed. Some questions are very practical. Some seem to have no answers. All the questions that flood us at this time point to the reality that death itself is a big question for us.

With life, we can plan. We can dream. We can change course. We can learn. We know what we want to do and what we do not want to do. We have options.

Death disrupts all that. It is the end of plans, of communication, of choices. We look into the face of a loved one who has died and there is no response. No recognition. No smile. No softening of the eyes. Not a flicker. In response to the thousand questions tumbling about in our minds, there is only silence.

O Death! What are you? What have you done to my loved one? Where have you taken him? Does she still live behind, above,

beyond the stillness of her body?

Death is a ponderous question. It has no satisfying answer from any living man or woman, whether philosopher or poet, mystic or realist.

Fortunately, our Creator has not been silent about death. God has spoken clearly, and if we listen to what He says, our hearts can find comfort and great assurance.

THE ANSWER

*A*ccording to God's Word, death is the result of sin. "*The wages of sin is death*" (Romans 6:23). Because of Adam and Eve's original sin, all people are born mortal, subject to sickness and death. "*Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned*" (Romans 5:12).

The good news is that those who believe

in Jesus are saved from sin and from the power of death itself. *“For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord”* (Romans 6:23). When Lazarus died, Jesus told his grieving sister, *“I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live”* (John 11:25).

Those who believe in Jesus no longer need to fear physical death because they know it leads them out of this life into another and better life with Jesus. This is accomplished through the work of Jesus. *“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil; and deliver them who through fear of death were all their lifetime subject to bondage”* (Hebrews 2:14, 15).

Through faith in Jesus, we have an answer

to the question of death. We know death is the result of sin. We know that if we believe in Jesus, death will be the gateway to eternal life; therefore, we no longer need to fear death.

THE HOPE OF BELIEVERS

The comfort we can have when a loved one passes away comes from the life and work of Jesus in our behalf. Here are comforting words for those who trust in Jesus' work for them.

1. Those who believe in Jesus as their Saviour will spend eternity with Him.

“Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come