

I. Introduction and review.

II. You have an appointment with death and judgment. v. 27

A. You will die (once).

1. Our author speaks in general terms. I Th. 4:13-18
2. Only God is immortal by nature. I Tim. 6:16 Gen. 2:17
3. Death has entered into human existence through sin. Rom. 5:12
4. Many live in denial of their morality. Luke 12:16-21 Ps. 90:12
5. Jesus entered into our experience of death in order to put away sin and death.
v. 26b 2:14-15 Rom. 5:18 I Cor 15:22

B. When you die you will be judged by God. John 12:48 Ps. 9:7-8

1. Physical death is not the end of human existence. You have an everlasting soul.
2. You will not be reincarnated.
3. You will not get a second chance. Luke 16:19-31
4. Your works will not save you. Rom. 3:20 Phil. 3:4-9 Isa. 64:6 Eph. 2:8-9
5. Your sin cries out for judgment. 2:3 12:25 Rom. 6:23 John 3:18-19 Is. 64:6 53:6
6. Jesus Himself will judge you. John 5:25-29 12:48
7. Those who die in their sins will experience everlasting condemnation. 10:26-31
Mt. 25:46 Mark 9:47-48 II Th. 1:7,9 Rev. 21:8 20:10,14-15 Luke 16:23,25,28
8. They will be without excuse. Ro. 1:18-21,28-32
9. Jesus was judged in the place of his people. v. 26b,14 2:17 I Pe. 3:18
10. In what sense will believers be judged? 9:26 II Co. 5:21 5:10

C. Your death is appointed by God.

1. You are not in control of your life. Js. 4:13-16
2. The LORD God is sovereign over life and death. Deut. 32:39
3. He has determined the number of days you will live. Ps. 139:16
4. Jesus' death was also appointed by God. Acts 2:23 Gal. 4:4 Isa. 53:4,6,10

III. Jesus Christ will return to the earth bringing salvation to His people. v. 28

A. There is an important parallel between what we do and what Christ does.

1. We die once and then come into judgment.
2. Christ died once and later will come to save from judgment.

B. He appeared the first time to bear the sins of many.

1. This is a clear allusion to Isaiah 53:11.
2. Though Jesus was innocent, He took our guilt upon Himself, so that we might not be condemned. 2:17 II Cor. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 Rev. 5:9-10 I Th. 1:10
3. Whose guilt did He bear?
 - a. Not all people without exception. Or all without exception would be saved.
 - b. He bore the guilt of the many. 2:10 Mark 10:45 Isa. 53:11
 - c. From the human side, He saves all those who will believe in Him. John 3:16
Ro. 10:13 Acts 16:31
 - d. From the divine side, the many are those whom the Father has given the Son.
John 6:37,39 10:11,26-28
4. Jesus saves not just a few, but many! Rev. 7:9-10

- C. He will appear the second time bringing the full blessings of salvation. 5:9
1. His second coming will be *without reverence to sin* because His work of sin bearing was completed on the cross.
 2. While we presently enjoy many blessings, the fullness of New Covenant promises will be experienced when Jesus returns for us. 8:8-12 Jer. 31:31-34
 3. Sin will be completely obliterated. 7:12
 4. You will enjoy the closest possible fellowship with God in His presence. I Jo. 3:2
 5. You will receive your heavenly inheritance. 1:14 6:12 9:15 11:10,14-16 13:14
 6. You will enjoy everlasting rest. 4:9-11
- D. He will bring salvation to those who eagerly await Him. I Jo. 3:2-3
1. Our author is probably thinking again of the events on the Day of Atonement.
 - a. The High Priest first appeared to make atonement through sacrifice. v. 25b
 - b. Then he disappeared in the Holiest Place to appear (intercede) for the people. v. 24b Ex. 28:29
 - c. Then He came out of the Holiest place to reappear to the people who were waiting for him. v. 28b
 2. All God's people long for His coming. Rev. 22:21 I Cor. 1:7 Phil. 3:20-21

IV. Concluding applications.

- A. The application of eschatology.
1. Bible believing Christians differ on some of the details of eschatology such as the timing of the rapture and the nature of the millennial kingdom.
 2. Every orthodox believer affirms the certainty of the return of Jesus Christ at the end of this age to judge all people and to establish His perfect kingdom.
 3. The certain reality of death and judgment should move the unbeliever to repentance and faith. Acts 2:40 Mt. 10:28
 4. The hope of Jesus' return enables believers to endure hardship. Rom. 8:18,23 II Cor. 4:16-18 I Th. 4:18 I Th. 1:6f Jo. 14:1f
 5. The expectation of being with the Lord motivates us to strive for purity as we faithfully serve God in this life. 12:28-20 I Jo. 3:2-3 Mt. 25:14-30 II Ti. 4:6-8
 6. We must always be ready. Mt. 24:36,44,50 25:13
- B. What does your future hold?
1. Are you ready to die and face judgment? Amos 4:12 Rev. 1:7 Phil. 2:9-11
 2. Do you eagerly await Jesus' return?

Discussion Questions

1. How does this text disprove naturalistic materialism?
2. How does this text disprove reincarnation?
3. How does this text disprove the theory that everyone will get a *second chance* after death?
4. Who are the exceptions to the general rule that all people die once?
5. On what grounds will people be judged?
6. What happens to the wicked at judgment?
7. How can you defend the justice and the goodness of God's punishment of sinners?
8. How do Christ's two appearings parallel the experience of every human being?
9. Why doesn't Christ's second appearing have anything to do with sin?
10. Who are those for whom Jesus bore their sin?
11. Do you eagerly await His return? How does that affect your life?