

The Mercy of Death

Genesis 3:19-24 (Romans 7:24-25a)

1. Death is a curse.

Deuteronomy 30:19 "I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I have set before you **life** and **death**, the **blessing** and the **curse**. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants."

- a. Death is the penalty to which the guilty are sentenced.

Genesis 2:17 = **The Penalty**

Genesis 3:19 = **The Sentence**

- a. Death is a constant reminder of the penalty (curse) of sin.

Romans 5:12 and 14

2. Death is also a reminder.

- a. Death is a humbling (humiliating) reminder of our earthly origin.

Genesis 3:19 "For you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

(Dust vs. Deity).

- a. Death is a humbling (humiliating) reminder of our most basic weakness.

Genesis 3:19 "For you are dust, and **to dust you shall return.**"

You cannot sustain your own life!

But what is death really?

"The total and permanent cessation of all the vital functions of an organism."

Is this what we think about? Or is it separation that we most think about?

3. But God makes death a mercy.

- a. He makes an animal's death a mercy to the couple.

Genesis 3:21

Amazing kindness and sacrifice!

- b. He makes His Son's death a mercy to His people.

This sacrifice looked forward to sacrifices which looked forward to THE sacrifice!

John 1:29 "The next day *John* saw Jesus coming to him, and said, "Behold, **the Lamb of God** who takes away the sin of the world!"

Hebrews 10:10 "...we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all."

Isaiah 61:10 "I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For **He has clothed me with garments of salvation**, He has wrapped me with a robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels."

c. He makes **others'** death a mercy to us all.

Ecclesiastes 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."

d. He will make **your** death a mercy to you.

Genesis 3:22

What would have happened had God allowed Adam to live forever in that state?

- Eternal **earthly** life would be an unending curse of pain and suffering.
- Death releases us from this body of sin and death.

Romans 7:24 "Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?"

What would happen if God left you forever in your current state of sin?

But God made death a mercy for those who embrace His new way to life.

"Who will set me free from the body of this death?"

Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord!"

Genesis 3:24

John 14:6

"I am the way, and the truth, and the life."

This is the only message that gives real hope to the hopeless!

2 Corinthians 5:2-9

"...we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord..." that is, if we walk by faith and not by sight!

So, how do you see death?