

## Expressions of Death

by Michael Riddle

Death has long been a topic that many don't like to think about. It is, however, valuable for us to do so. Many in this world are confused about what happens when we die. The Bible uses several different expressions of death throughout the Old and New Testaments. Let us examine some of those expressions of death.

### And He Died

This simple expression of death reminds us of the surety of death. In the generation of Adam back in Genesis 5, this phrase occurs over and over again. It is said of all of the generations of Adam, with the exception of Enoch, *and he died*. We read in Hebrews 11:5 that Enoch was translated that he should not see death because of his testimony that he pleased God. Wouldn't that be great, for our testimony today to be

that we pleased God? But of all the others, it is repeated and he died. Like of Adam in verse 5, *and he died*. Of Seth in verse 8, *and he died*. Of Enos in verse 11, Cainan in verse 14, Mahalaleel (:17), Jared (:20). Methuselah, the oldest man to ever walk this earth, lived 969 years *and he died*. Lamech in verse 32, *and he died*.

These all remind us of the surety of death. We realize that no matter how long we live on this earth, we all will die, unless the Lord returns first. For as we read in 1 Cor. 15:22, *“For as in Adam, all die.”* The psalmist in the 89<sup>th</sup> Psalm and in verse 48 said, *“What man is he that liveth, and shall not see death?”*

### Going the Way of All the Earth

This expression occurs twice in your Bible. The first time this expression

is used is by Joshua in Joshua 23:14 when he said, *“And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth.”* King David used this same expression in 1 Kings 2:1-2 when he charged his son Solomon saying, *“I go the way of all the earth: be thou strong therefore, and shew thyself a man.”* The Holy Spirit told us through the Hebrew writer, *“It is appointed unto men once to die”* (Heb. 9:27). Death is an appointment that we are all will surely keep. These words can be said by each and every one of us today. We are all going the way of all the earth.

The next few expressions of death will look at what happens when we die.

Unfortunately, many in the world today are greatly confused about what happens when we pass from this life. We must first take note that

we are dual beings. A good place to notice this is in Matthew 10 when Christ gave his apostles the limited commission. He told His apostles to not fear those who could kill this body, but to fear God who is able to destroy both soul and body. One part of our being is the physical body which we can see. This part of man is but dust and ashes as Abraham said in Genesis 18:27. What a humbling consideration, that we are but dust and ashes.

The second part of our being is that eternal spirit that is made in the image of God. Genesis 2:7 tells us that after the Lord formed man from the dust of the ground that He, "*breathed into the nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul*". The union of body and spirit is what gives us life, for we

know that the body without the spirit is dead (James 2:26).

### **Putting off This Tabernacle**

Peter referred to death as *putting off this tabernacle* in 2 Peter 1:4. The word tabernacle here refers to the body in which the spirit of man resides. Putting off this tabernacle will occur when our body returns to the dust of the earth from whence it came (Gen. 3:19). Paul used this same expression in 2 Corinthians 5. From the physical aspect, death is final as it is appointed once for men to die (Hebrews 9:27).

### **Departure**

When we die, our body returns to the dust of the earth, and the spirit returns unto God who gave it (Ecclesiastes 12:7). In 2 Timothy 4:6, Paul stated, "*For I am*

*now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand.*"

We realize from the account of the rich man and Lazarus in Luke 16, that when our life on this earth comes to a close, our soul departs to the realm of hades, either in torment or "Abraham's bosom" to await the Judgment Day when the dead in Christ shall rise first (1 Thessalonians 4:16).

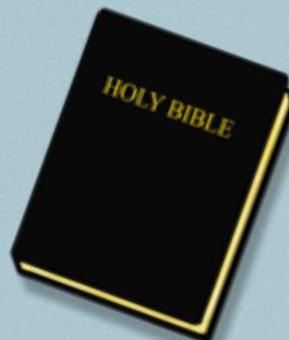
Job told us "*For I know that thou wilt bring me to death*" (Job 30:23). We realize that death will come to all men and we are to be ready to die (Acts 21:13). We as Christians can have the same assurance that Paul had when he made the remark in 2 Timothy 4:8, "*Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness*". Truly the departure for the Christian is "far better" (Philippians 1:23)!

**The Terre Haute **SPEAKER**** is published weekly by the church of Christ at Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Assembling At:**  
4017 E Margaret DR  
Terre Haute, IN 47803  
[Exit 11 (I-70) W on HWY 46,  
West on Margaret DR 1 mile]

**Assembling Times:**  
Sunday @ 10:00 a.m. & 3:00 p.m.  
Wednesday @ 7:00 p.m.

***Come be with us!***



***We Speak Where the Bible Speaks.***

***We Are Silent Where the Bible Is Silent.***

***We Do Bible Things in Bible Ways.***

**[www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com](http://www.churchofchristatterrehaute.com)**