

The End . . .

Key Scriptures

Hebrews 2:14-15

Therefore, since the children share in flesh and blood, He likewise shared in their humanity, so that through death He might render powerless the one who holds the power of death (that is, the devil),¹⁵ and set free those who were held in slavery all their lives by their fear of death.

Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God.⁴

When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

1 Thessalonians. 4:13-18
But I do not want you to be ignorant, brethren, concerning those who have fallen asleep, lest you sorrow as others who have no hope.¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus.

Key Point:

Because death has been conquered by Christ, it no longer has power over those who are in Christ.

TALK IT OVER

Start talking: Pick a conversation starter for your group.

- My mother-in-law requested that at her funeral, everyone wear bright and beautiful colors. No wearing black. What do you think of that request?

Start thinking. Ask a question to get your group thinking.

- What reasons can you think of why the fear of death can enslave a person?
- How did Jesus set us free from this slavery? (Heb 2:14-15)
- How would you explain what it means to be “hidden in Christ” (Col 3:3) How does your understanding of this concept affect how you live?

Start sharing. Choose a question to create openness.

- Is it difficult for you to talk about the subject of death? Why or why not?
- How does a person’s perspective on death calibrate the way we live, think, and speak?
- Are there times when you have felt captive by the fear of death?
- What did you think when you heard about the early church’s original idea behind the word “cemetery,” (a resting place for strangers)?

Start praying. Be bold and pray with power.

- The Apostle Paul certainly understood what death meant for the Christian. **“For to me to live is Christ and to die is gain.” (Phil 1:21)** Pray that God would help you to develop that understanding and outlook.

Start doing. Commit to a step and live it out this week!

- How can you share some of what you learned with someone? Share what you have learned this week with someone.