

“Resurrection of the Dead” (#08)
“The Last Enemy”

During the month of April, we are studying a new series of lessons entitled, Resurrection of Dead.

Paul is answering questions written by church leaders regarding doctrinally issues associated with the resurrection of Jesus Christ – “How do some of you say?” (1 Cor.15:12)

Paul made an interesting theological statement in our lesson text – “The last enemy that will be abolished is **death** (thanatos).” (2 Cor.15:26)

This lesson will address the following five questions pertaining to THE LAST ENEMY.

- “What is the origin of **death**?”
- “To whom is **death** an enemy?”
- “How is **death** an enemy?”
- “How is **spiritual death** abolished?”
- “Why is **second spiritual death** the Last Enemy?”

1. The origin of death is Adam’s Original Sin (AOS)

(Gen.2;16-17) “The Lord God commanded the man, saying, ‘From many tree of the garden you may eat freely; but from the tree of knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.”

AOS produced three categories of death that affects the human race.

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| • Physical death | (nekros) | (Eccl.3:2; 12:7; Heb.9:27). |
| • Spiritual death | (thanatos) | (Rom.5:12-21; 1 Cor.15:22.) |
| • Second spiritual death | (thanatos) | (Rev.20:14-15). |

2. Spiritual death is an enemy of God because He is everlasting life – “Even from everlasting to everlasting You are God.” (Ps.90:2b)

Satan attacked the Word and character of God in the Garden of Eden (Gen.3:1-7).

Adam and Eve were created with eternity in their heart without sin separation

(Eccl.3:11b) “He has set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from the beginning to end.”

Before their sin, they could eat from the tree of eternal life because they were capable of living forever (Gen.2:16).

After their sin, they were not permitted to eat of the tree of life.

(Gen.3:22-24) “He might stretch out his hand, and take also from the tree of life, and eat, and live forever- therefore the Lord God sent him out from the garden of Eden – So he drove the man out; and at the east of the garden of Eden He stationed the cherubim and the flaming sword which turned every direction to guard the way to the tree of life.”

When they ate from the tree of knowledge of good and evil, they died spiritually and later physically (Gen.2:17; 5:1-5).

3. Death became an enemy of the everlasting life of God through AOS.

(Rom.5:19) “For if while we were enemies we were **reconciled** to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”

(Col.1:21-22) “And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds, yet He now **reconciled** you in His fleshly body through death, in order to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach.” (Eph.2:1, 16-17)

(Rom.5:6) “For while we were still helpless, at the right time Christ died for the **ungodly**.” (Rom.6:23)

(Rom.5:12) “Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and **death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned.**”

4. Spiritual death is abolished in each person who believes that Jesus suffered the penalty of our spiritual death, His burial and resurrection to restore us to our created position of eternal life (John 3:16, 36; 1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Spiritual death is separation from God in time.

(1 Cor.15:22) “For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.” (Jn.5:24; 10:28; 1 Jn.3:14) (2 Tim.1:10)

(John 11:25) “I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in Me will live even if he dies.”

(1 John 5:11-13) “And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life. These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

5. The second spiritual death is the LAST ENEMY to be abolished at the end of human history.

It will be abolished by Jesus Christ at the end of the Millennium and the Great White Throne Judgment (GWTJ)

(Rev.20:11-13) “Then **death and Hades** were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.” (Rev.20:14-15; 1:18)

(Rev.20:6) “**Blessed and holy** is the one who has a part in the **first resurrection**; over these the second death has no power, but they be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him for a thousand years.”

(Rev.21:4) “And He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will be **no longer be any death**; there will **no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain**; the first things have passed away.”

(1 Cor.15:25) “For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. **The last enemy** that will be abolished **is death.**”

NOTE: “He will swallow up death for all time, and the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces.” (Isa.25:8a; 1 Cor.15:54; Rev.21:4)