



# Berean Christian Fellowship

## DEVOTIONAL 147.0

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### Life Will Swallow Up Death

**“He will swallow up death for all time, And the Lord God will wipe tears away from all faces, And He will remove the reproach of His people from all the earth; For the Lord has spoken” (Isaiah 25:8).**

For all of history, DEATH has devoured unhindered, and nothing has escaped it. No one can compete with an *“appetite like Sheol...like death, never satisfied”* (Hab. 2:5b). New life comes into being, but no matter how strong and mighty that life becomes, it is not stronger than death. Death has the last word, and devours all things without caring if they are gardenias or galaxies. Yes, even galaxies die, and the furthest reaches of the universe are subject to death’s dominion. We fear it for good reason because even the mighty universe itself has an appointment with death—and we have an appointment too.

Death brings an end to everything we’ve invested in on earth. It brings an end to our *“natural body”* (1 Cor. 15:44b) with all the senses we have entertained through it, the habits we have maintained in it, and the works we strived to complete. But just as *“God is spirit”* (John 4:24) and *“God created man in His own image”* (Gen. 1:27a), we too have *“a spiritual body”* (1 Cor. 15:44b), which lives on when the natural body dies—we are eternal beings. But death can even follow us into eternity. Our spiritual bodies can be cast into *“the second death, the lake of fire”* (Rev. 20:14b)! How can that happen? Well, *“the wages of sin is death”* (Rom. 6:23a), both to the natural body and to the spiritual, for *“if you are living according to the flesh, you must die; but if by the Spirit you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live”* (Rom. 8:13). Sin pays us our due—death. *“I have no pleasure in the death of anyone who dies,” declares the Lord*

*God. ‘Therefore, repent and live’”* (Ez. 18:32). For those who repent, God says He will swallow death completely up. **The consumer of life will be consumed by Life itself.** But how does God save us from death and the second death? Through Jesus Christ *“who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel”* (2 Tim. 1:10), *“having been raised from the dead”* (Rom. 6:9a). *“The death that He died, He died to sin once for all”* (Rom. 6:10a)—that includes your sin.

Jesus is the first “man” that death could not consume—the first to have opened the grave from the inside out. It had no power over Him because He had no sin. While God has resurrected many people from death back to mortal life (Lazarus, etc), death would reclaim them. They simply had their appointment with death rescheduled to a later date. But Jesus was the first to completely escape death’s power, for He *“is never to die again; death no longer is master over Him”* (Rom. 6:9b). His appointment with death was cancelled and its authority to ever reschedule with Him was nullified. Death could not keep His natural body, and the second death could not touch His spiritual body. This is breathtaking, but what is beyond wonderment is that Jesus offers us this same victory and power over death if we know Him as our Savior and put our trust in His ability to save us from our sin and its wages of death: *“this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent”* (John 17:3).

Just as His natural body died, we too must die, but just as He rose from death, we too will rise. In this way, the death of the Believer is really a *“sleep”* (1 Cor. 15:51), because death cannot “keep us” dead. Those of us who truly know Jesus are eternally, irrevocably destined for LIFE, regardless of death’s power in this present time. God *“is not the God of the dead but of the living”* (Matt. 22:32b). AMEN!

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