DEATH

I. Defining death.
   A. Two Greek words for "death" in New Testament.
      1. Thanatos - General word for "death." Get English "thanatology" -
         study of death.
      2. Nekros - Refers to dead body, corpse. Get English "necrology"
         (obituary) and "necromancy" (communication with corpses).
   B. Concepts of death.
      1. Annihilation, non-existence
      2. Termination, cessation
      3. Alienation, separation - Eph. 4:18
      4. Absence of life, deprivation of vital function
   C. "Body apart from spirit is dead" - James 2:26
   D. "Sleep" - a euphemism for death. John 11:11-13; Acts 7:60; I Thess. 4:15;
      I Cor. 15:6,18. Greek word koimeterion is base of English word "cemetery."

II. Types of death.
   A. Spiritual death - Gen. 2:17; I Cor. 15:22; Rom. 5:12,21, Eph. 2:1,5
      1. Power of death - Heb. 2:14
   B. Behavioral death - Rom. 7:5; I Tim. 5:6; Heb. 6:1; 9:14; James 1:15
   C. Physical death - Gen. 5:5; Heb. 9:27
   D. Everlasting death - John 8:21,24; Rev. 2:11; 21:8

III. Introduction of death into created order.
   A. Consequence of sin - Gen. 2:17; Rom. 6:23
      1. What types of death implied?
      2. Apart from sin would man have "lived forever" (Gen. 3:34)? What
         kinds of life implied?
      3. Death is natural and universal in fallen mankind -
         Ps. 90:10; Eccl. 3:1,2; Heb. 9:27.
      4. Was there death prior to man’s sin in plant and animal kingdoms?
         Entropy, degeneration, "Second Law of Thermodynamics"
   B. Man's natural fear of death - Heb. 2:15; Rom. 8:15; Ps. 23:4
   C. Power of God to deliver one to death - Deut. 32:39; I Cor. 11:30
   D. Abode of the dead
      1. Pre-Christian view
         a. Sheol - Isa. 5:14; Hab. 2:15
         b. Pit - Ps. 28:1; 88:4,6; Prov. 1:12; Isa. 14:15; Ezek. 31:14
         c. Silence - Ps. 94:17; 115:17
         d. Darkness - Job 10:21; Ps. 143:3
         e. Destruction - Job 26:6; Ps. 88:11; Prov. 15:11
         f. Hades - Greek god of underworld
         a. References to Hades - Lk 16:19-31; Acts 2:27,31;
            Rev. 1:18; 6:8; 20:13
         b. Heaven - II Cor. 5:2; Col. 1:5; I Peter 1:4
         c. Hell - Matt. 10:28; James 3:6; II Peter 2:4
IV. Work of Jesus Christ to counteract death.

A. By His death He took the death consequences of sin upon Himself.
   1. Overcame one having power of death - Heb. 2:14
   2. Death no longer master - Rom. 6:9
   3. Death has lost its sting - I Cor. 15:55,56
   4. Death swallowed up in victory - I Cor. 15:54
   5. Death is abolished - II Tim. 1:10; I Cor. 15:26

B. By Christ’s death the Christian is made dead
   1. To “old man” - Rom. 6:6
   2. To sin - Rom. 6:11
   3. To Law - Rom. 7:4,6; Gal. 2:19
   4. To world - Gal. 6:14
   5. To “flesh” - Gal. 5:24; Col. 3:5; Rom. 8:13

C. Christ’s life made available to Christian.
   1. Passed from death to life - John 5:24,25; I John 3:14
   2. Christ is our life - John 14:6; Col. 3:4; I John 5:11,12
   4. Immortality - I Tim. 1:17; 6:16; II Tim. 1:10

V. Christian expectations after physical death.

A. Continuity
   2. Individuality, personality in soul - James 5:20
   3. Embodiment - Rom. 8:23
      a. Not naked “disembodied spirits” - II Cor. 5:3
      b. Not homeless - II Cor. 5:1,2; II Pet. 1:14
      c. Like Christ - I John 3:2; Phil. 3:21

B. Discontinuity
   1. Change of body in resurrection.
      a. fleshly/glorified - I Cor. 15:39,43
      b. earthly/heavenly - I Cor. 15:40
      c. perishable/imperishable - I Cor. 15:42,53,54
      d. dishonor/glory - I Cor. 15:43
      e. weakness/power - I Cor. 15:43
      f. natural/spiritual - I Cor. 15:44,46
      g. mortal/immortal - I Cor. 15:53,54
      h. corruption/incorruption - Rom. 8:21
      i. temporal/eternal - II Cor. 4:18; 5:1
   2. Change of environment or realm.
      a. earth/heaven - I Cor. 15:48; Rev. 21:1
      b. absent from body, present with Lord - II Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:23

C. Transition
   1. “Graduation to glory”
   2. Stepping through the door into new place.
   3. Scottish tombstone: “Ta Ta The Noo” - (Good-bye for Now)

VI. Other issues associated with physical death.

A. Death penalty, capital punishment - Lev. 24:17; Deut. 35:31
B. Euthanasia - “good-death” - changing meaning of term.
C. Near-death, out-of-body experiences, whether euphoric or foreboding.
E. Mourning, grief - Eccl. 3:4; I Thess. 4:13. Not despair - II Cor. 4:8