

Session 3

WILL WE EVER MEET AGAIN?



Opening Prayer: Heavenly Father, I know someday I must die, unless Jesus returns first. But it is very likely I will watch close friends and loved ones die first. In the hour of my loss and grief, please visit me with Your sweet comfort. Fill me with the everlasting hope my Lord Jesus won through His death and resurrection. I pray in His Name. Amen.

- Who is the first person whose death hit close to home for you?

- How did you move on from that?

Watch the Video: Session 3

God created us to be in relation with others. That gives depth and meaning to our lives. But it also greatly increases the pain we feel when those relationships are severed by death. That pain can show itself in anger, lashing out against those we hold responsible for our loved one's demise. Sometimes our response is against God for not preventing that death. At other times we lug our anger and resentment around for years, unwilling to part with it.

- What anger or other strong emotion do you carry because of the death of a loved one?

- What is a healthy way to deal with that emotion when you know it won't bring your loved one back?

- What Bible passages reassure us of God's loving purpose, even when we don't understand why He chose to let our loved one die?



Help to Those Who Grieve

Another difficult aspect of dealing with a loved one's death is guilt and regret.

- What would you say to someone whose last words to their loved ones were harsh and hurting?
- What comfort can we receive from John's testimony as he saw the saints in heaven and heard the promise, "The Lamb in the midst of the throne will be their Shepherd, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes" (Revelation 7:17)?

Another aspect of the pain resulting from a loved one's death centers on this question: Will we ever meet again? God answers that question in Paul's letter to the Thessalonians.



Christ in Death, Christ in Life

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

- ¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope.
- ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep.
- ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.
- ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first.
- ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.
- ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

Three times Paul says the dead are "asleep." He is not talking about their souls—merely their bodies. It is God's magnificent way of comforting us. By describing the body as being asleep, God is reminding and reassuring us our loved ones who sleep through the darkness of death's night will awaken to a glorious eternal life when Christ Jesus returns on Judgment Day.

- How does Jesus' resurrection underscore Paul's point?

- Why is it always comforting to focus on God and remember our loved ones rest in His all-powerful hands?

Paul says he doesn't want us to be uninformed or to grieve as others who have no hope. Clearly, those who have no hope don't trust in Christ Jesus for their salvation.

- How can we find comfort when we are not sure if a loved one died in faith?

Any Hope for Suicide?

There was a day when pastors taught there is no hope of eternal salvation for those who commit suicide because they thought there was no chance to repent before death.

- Why would they reach that conclusion?

- Under what circumstances might that be a false conclusion?

- How have you tried to comfort a friend who is devastated by a loved one's suicide?

- What would you do differently next time?

Closing Prayer: Lord Jesus, at the death of Your dear friend Lazarus You wept. Remind me that while You share all my sorrows and hurts, You have also won the victory over death. Comfort me with Your promise to raise my loved ones and to bring to glory all who died trusting in You. Amen.



Additional links and resources available at lhm.org/death

[Through the Shadowlands](#)

[Angry with God](#)