

Notes, Questions & Prayer Requests

Horizontal lines for notes, questions, and prayer requests.

Question 1

Since we are studying the book of Daniel we have begun the first section of this lesson with Daniel’s concept of death. Obviously it is consistent with the rest of scripture. It is amazing how clearly Daniel enunciates the concept of death, using the typical Biblical words of “sleep” and “rest,” and indicating that he will be resurrected at the last day.

Question 2

Since you have already covered in the introduction what your basic conclusion is, you will not have to be building the conclusion as you move through the lesson. Instead you can keep showing how each of these texts are supporting that big picture that you have already drawn in the introduction.

Question 4

Daniel again is very clear that everlasting life and everlasting contempt occur at the resurrection, not when a person dies. If they went to heaven when they died they would already have everlasting life or everlasting contempt.

Question 5

One of the major thrusts in this lesson will be to show how incompatible with the rest of Christianity is the teaching that when a man dies he goes to heaven.

We will attempt to show how this doctrine of natural immortality totally undermines the Christian faith, destroying the hope of the resurrection, the hope of the second coming, and the hope of the cross of Jesus Christ.

The point is that the destruction of these three fundamental doctrines of the Christian church virtually wipes out Christianity. This is an attempt to

show the student the importance of this doctrine. Some people will say when they first hear this presented that it doesn't make any difference what you believe about death, that when we all die we'll find out what happens.

However, the presentation of the Biblical concept of death in the context of what the false concept does to the Christian faith, helps the student to see that it is a major point and that it must be clear, otherwise he is virtually undermining and destroying the Christian faith.

So make certain in your presentation to make it very clear that this false teaching undermines the three fundamental principles of Christianity.

In the next few questions we deal with the undermining of the resurrection hope.

Question 6

There is no way to everlasting life except through resurrection. You cannot have life without resurrection; that is Paul's point.

Question 7

This is the question that undermines the false concept of death by showing that it is incompatible with the teaching of the second coming.

Question 8

This section of the lesson deals with the question of whether man has a mortal or immortal soul. Those who teach natural immortality must also teach the immortal soul. We have a very valid argument in the fact that the term "immortal soul" does not appear in Scripture.

It is not simply because the term is a modern term and was not used in Bible times. In fact the expression "immortal soul" was extensively in ancient pagan literature. Emphasize to the students that the Bible is the

Questions 22 and 23

Both of these questions again establish the reality of the bodies of God's people in the new earth. The resurrected body is a real body, not a spirit body. Stress the reality of the world that God is preparing for those that love Him. From there move into your appeal, appealing to your students to be ready to meet Jesus and go home to spend eternity with Him.

Response Questions:

1. If it is clear to you tonight from this study that the dead are asleep and know nothing until the resurrection, put a check in Box #1.
2. If it is your desire to meet Jesus on the resurrection morning and go home and spend eternity with Him, put a check in Box #2.
3. If you have some questions on this subject of what happens to a man when he dies and you would like me to answer those questions for you, put a check in Box #3.

only place where this term is not mentioned, that it is strange indeed if the Bible taught such a concept!

Question 9

Look up this text and make certain your students read it.

God is the only possessor of immortality. For anyone to claim that man has natural immortality is to claim that man has an attribute of God, something that God said is exclusively His. That is blasphemy.

Question 10

Another illustration you might use to illustrate the soul would be of a man who built a box out of boards and nails. He pounded the nails together in such a way as to fashion a box. Where did the box come from? It came from the combination of the boards and nails.

Now the man turns around and pulls out all the nails and the boards come tumbling down. What happened to the box? It ceased to be. The box only existed when the nails and the boards were together. Likewise the soul only exists when it is in union with the body.

You will also want to make a point of the fact that the Biblical definition of the "soul" is body plus breath of life, or spirit. Therefore the body is part of the soul. If the body is part of the soul, then the soul cannot be part of the body. When a person dies he cannot have a soul apart from the body, since the body is part of the soul.

Question 12

If people were born with immortality, such as an immortal soul, there would be no need for them to receive it at the last trump.

Question 13

The point we are trying to raise here is very simple: if man has natural immortality he doesn't need the death of Jesus Christ to give him immortality, thus there is no need for the death of Jesus Christ.

Having established this point very clearly with your students, you then need to summarize by reviewing the fact that the teaching on death that says that when a man dies he goes straight to heaven or hell eliminates the need for the doctrine of the second coming, the doctrine of the resurrection, and now the doctrine of the cross. Hence there is no need of any Christianity.

He has virtually destroyed the Christian faith. No wonder the doctrine of natural immortality is such a pagan Concept.

Question 14

Having clearly undermined the theology of natural immortality and showing the complete Biblical reality of the teaching of death, the next section of the lesson proves from the Bible alone that death is sleep and that people know nothing until the resurrection.

You will want to refer your students to Exhibit 1 which gives all the texts in the Bible that mention death as sleep. Sometimes Seventh-day Adventists are accused of teaching soul sleep, and we have to admit that we teach it, but so does the Bible!

The most common Biblical usage of the word for death is sleep.

Questions 15 to 17

Questions 15-17 are so clear they hardly need any comment. They should obviously be looked up when you are going through the lesson so the student sees clearly this Biblical teaching of death. Ecclesiastes 9:5 is one of the clearest texts in the Bible: "The dead know not anything."

At this point in the lesson you will want to very quickly refer to Exhibit 2 and perhaps even explain it in your own words. The students need to see clearly that Jesus's words to the thief on the cross are not a contradiction of the Biblical teaching on death.

Question 18

This last section of the lesson is designed to make certain that you end the lesson on a positive, upbeat, hopeful note. The subject of the state of the dead is not a depressing subject, it ought to be a glorious subject. Uphold the Christian's hope in the resurrection.

Use these next several questions not only to further enunciate the truth of what happens when a person dies, but also to uplift very clearly before your students the great resurrection hope. If the righteous dead and the righteous living go to heaven together, then it is obvious that the dead cannot go before the living. They cannot be in heaven and then come down with Jesus to get themselves! The Bible says they go together.

Question 19

This is our hope; this is our comfort! Let your students see clearly that this was what comforted the early church and that it is what still comforts Christians today.

People who correctly understand death are not frightened by death, because they have the hope of the resurrection. Life after death for the Christian is not a spooky spirit existence somewhere.

To those who believe in the popular concept of death, life after death is very unreal.

What we present from the Bible gives them a picture of the reality of heaven, the reality of life after death with real bodies and real people doing real things.

Make sure you give this kind of strong emphasis at this point.