

Study for the Week: The Valley of the Shadow of Death

Background Reading: Psalm 23; Psalm 44:19; I John 1:3-5;
Ecclesiastes 3:1-2; Romans 8:35-39; Hebrews 13:5; John 10:1-4;
John 20:24-29

Day One:

In verse four of Psalm 23 we read about "the shadow of death." Has the thought of death made a difference in your life? List several ways in which the thought of death affects us.

Day Two:

According to I John 1:5, what is never found in God? How does this apply to the believer at the time of death?

Day Three:

What monumental events in our lives does God hold in His hands according to Ecclesiastes 3:1-2? Does He have a plan for death as much as for life?

Day Four:

From Romans 8:35-39, list those things which are not able to separate us from the love of Christ.

Day Five:

What promise has the Lord Jesus made to every believer in Hebrews 13:5? Will Christ keep this promise even at our time of death?

Day Six:

In Psalm 23:4, do the sheep walk through the valley alone? According to John 10:4, would our Shepherd ever send us anywhere without His presence?



The Valley of the Shadow of Death Psalm 23:4

What does it mean to walk through the *"shadow of death"*?

Psalms 44:19 *Though thou hast sore broken us in the place of dragons, and covered us with the shadow of death.*

Some people think we go through a time of darkness when we die.

In **I John 1:3-5**, we learn that in God *"is no darkness at all."*

When we trust Christ by faith as Savior, we are placed in Him.

For the Christian, there can be no veil of darkness at death, because we are in Christ, and *"in him is no darkness at all!"*

The word shadow implies the approaching of something.

It implies, not that darkness is coming, but that death is coming.

Certainly death is a mystery, but it is not a time of darkness.

Death is a divider. It divides us from the littleness in life.

It separates us from things that should not trouble us and helps us to put priorities in place.

We have not yet reached death, but we know it is coming; we see its shadow.

I. The C_____ of Death

If the Lord does not come soon, we are all going through the door of death.

Solomon said in **Ecclesiastes 3:1-2** that there is *"a time to be born, and a time to die."*

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 *To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted;*

Just as surely as there was a time when you were born, there will come a time for you to die.

Hebrews 9:27 says it is *"appointed unto men once to die."*

How many years do you think you have left to live?

None of us can be certain of our time of death, but we can all be certain that, unless the Lord Jesus comes, we will certainly face death.

II. The C_____ in Death

God's children find comfort in the time of death.

Comfort does not come from what we have, what we are, or what we have accomplished in our lives.

Comfort is not found in things.

Comfort is found only in a Person, Jesus Christ.

Read **Romans 8:35-39** and notice the things that God says cannot separate us from the love of Christ.

When David speaks of walking "through the valley of the shadow of death," he says, "I will fear no evil: for thou art with me."

We find comfort only in knowing that Jesus Christ is with us!

Hebrews 13:5 says, *"Let your conversation be without covetousness, and be content with such things as ye have..."*

How can we be content?

The verse says, *"..for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee."*

When we have the Lord Jesus, we can be content because we have everything we need.

When your life comes to an end, what will happen then?

It is not what, but Who. Jesus Christ will be with you.

He has promised never to leave us, not even in the moment of death.

III. The C_____ of Death

The Bible says that the shepherd leads *"through"* the valley of the shadow of death.

The sheep are not going in the valley to stay.

The shepherd knows his way through the valley because he has already made the journey, and he comes back to take the sheep where he has already been.

Our Savior has already gone through the door of death.

John 10:4 says, *"He goeth before them."*

At death, Christ does not send us to a strange place.

He says, *"I will be with you. I have already done this. I have gone before you."*