

CAUGHT UP INTO PARADISE (Part #2)

This lesson continues Paul's personal testimony of his experience with Dying Grace from our last study entitled [Caught up into Paradise, \(Part #1\)](#).

(2 Cor.12:2b) "**Whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body** I do not know, God knows – such a man was caught up to the third heaven."

It is understood, when Paul refers to "in the body" he means being physically alive; and "out of the body", physically dead.

Paul said a similar thing in our **lesson text**.

(2 Cor.5:6-8) "Therefore, **being always of good courage**, and knowing that while we are **at home in the body we are absent from the Lord** – for we walk by faith, not by sight – we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather **to be absent from the body and to be at home with Lord.**"

Once again, we understand Paul referring to being "**at home in body**" he is referring to being physically alive and being "**absent from the body and to be at home with Lord**" refers to the physical death of one who believes that Jesus died for their sins, was buried and raised on the third day to give them grace salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

This lesson will address the question, "how did physical life and death become associated with the body?"
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1. God is the originator of the human body.

God fashioned (yatsar) Adam's body out of ground and Eve's body out of a male rib (Gen.2:21-23). Then they were to procreate the human race as God prophetically instructed them to in (Gen.1:27-28) "be fruitful and multiply" [yada formula] (Gen.3:20; 4:1; Hos.9:1).

Without sin and death, their bodies were created to live forever, without aging or dying. But something happened to change it to "sin and death".

2. God is the originator of human life.

(Gen.2:7) "Then the **Lord God formed (yatsar)** man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the **breath of life** (neshamah chayyim) [lives]; and man became a **living being.**" (NASB)

Notice that the "breath of life" is plural (chayyim) [lives]. This is important and often missed because of the English singular – mistranslated "breath of life" (Job 12:10; 33:4; 34:14-15; Ps.104:29).

The breath of lives (neshamah chayyim) brings life to the body, soul, and spirit (1 Thess.5:23).

They were created originally to live forever. The physical and spiritual lives were one (1Cor.15:44-47). But something happened to change it to sin and death (1 Cor.15:22; Isa.2:22).

3. Adam's violation of God's commandment resulted in the origin of sin and death.

(Gen.2:17) "But from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil **you shall not eat**, for in the day that you eat from it you will surely die." (muth) [qal infin]; (muth) [qal impf]

Adam transgressed the commandment when he chose to eat from the tree, and as a result sin and death was passed unto the entire human race (Gen.3:6; Rom.5:12-17). Adam lived 930 years in a state of aging and dying after eating from tree (begat) (Gen.5; Matt.1) (KJ).

Because of Adam sin, aging as well as death was passed onto the human race (2 Cor.4:16-18).

The natural and spiritual were separated by Adam's sin and death (Rom.5:12-21; 1 Cor.15:45-49). When we are born again, the natural becomes spiritual because of the Church Age Holy Spirit's ministry. (John 7:37-39; 1 Cor.2:14-3:3; Jude 19; Rom.8:9)

(1 Cor.15:56) "The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law."

(1 Cor.15:21-22) "For since by man came death, by man also came the resurrection of the dead. **For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**"

4. As the Last Adam, Jesus Christ came into the world to restore fallen humanity's condition of being born under Adam's curse of "sin and death" (1 Cor.15:45) through the gospel of grace salvation (1 Cor.15:3-4; Rom.1:16; Eph.2:8-9).

Note the contrast between Adam and Jesus Christ in (Rom.5:20-21).

Personal Study: (1 Cor.15:22). Pay special attention to the **Great Grace Exchange (Eph.2:8-9)**. This is what takes place the moment you believe the gospel of grace salvation ([50 Things FREE](#))

(Rom.5:12) "So that, as sin reigned in death, even so **grace would reign through righteousness to eternal life** through Jesus Christ."

(John 5:24) "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My words, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has **passed out of death into life.**"

(1Cor.15:57) "Death is swallowed up **in victory.**" (1 Cor.15:54b) "But thanks to God, who gives us **the victory** through our Lord Jesus Christ."

(2 Cor.5:4b) "So that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life." (1 Cor.15:53-54)

(John 1:4, 9) "In Him was life, **and the life was the Light of men.**"

(John 8:12) "I am the Light of the world; he who follows Me will not walk in the darkness. **But will have the Light of Life.**"; Acts 26:18)