

Surprised by Suffering by Dr. R.C. Sproul

Lesson 4 – Suffering: Life After Death?

Introduction

The ultimate question for all humanity is the one asked by Job: “If a man dies, will he live again?” This session explores some of the basic reasons people of all cultures have come to believe in life after death.

Learning Objectives

By the end of this session you will:

1. Express reasons people hold to a belief in life after death.
2. Consider the philosophical and experiential support for a belief in life after death.
3. Read Scriptural passages dealing with life after death.
4. Discuss ways to comfort the dying and the grieving with the hope of life after death.

Quotation

*If the ultimate justice is to take place, then the first requirement that must be met is this:
We must survive the grave. - R.C. Sproul*

Questions to consider

1. How does awareness of life after death enhance our ability to endure suffering?
2. How does awareness of life after death affect our awareness of purpose in suffering and death?
3. How would you respond to someone who contends that belief in life after death is a crutch or the “opiate of the masses”?
4. Have people who have reported experiences of dying and returning to life really had a glimpse of life after death?
5. What does the Bible say is the fate of a baby who dies in infancy, is stillborn, or is aborted?
6. Do you think the fear of separation from loved ones is hardest for the one dying or the ones who remain? Why? Discuss your answers.
7. What is one insight about life after death that you have gained from this session?
8. Recall an incident when you had to let go of a loved one. Why was it hard? What factors produced comfort for you?

Lynwood URC’s *Surprised by Suffering* webpage: http://www.lynwoodurc.org/?page_id=2175

There is no video available for this lesson.