

WHY DO YOU NEED A SAVIOR?

Why do you need a Savior? Why do I think you need a Savior? Does the world need a Savior? The Bible answers "YES!" What do you think?

Hello I'm Larry Murdock.

There are two main reasons why you need a Savior. First, Death is coming to you! You know it! I know it! Everyone knows it! Sooner or later death will come to you! You cannot deny this fact! How many "close-calls" will you have to have to realize that death is coming to you? How many "brushes with death" will you need before you see that death is coming to you?

Death is in the world because of sin! That's right! If there had been no sin, rebellion, or iniquity, then there would have been no death! No matter how young or old you are, you have probably already experienced the effects of death in your life. People you have loved, and still love, are deceased! Even young people know the effect upon them of a friend's death. Young people, you may now be missing the joyful company of a friend or a family member. Death is real!

Let me ask you this: If you had a Savior, would He save you from the bodily death that you know is coming? It may be that you have had a savior who has enabled you to live until now. Have you ever been close to dying? There may have been a doctor who saved your life by some surgical procedure. There may have been a person who gave you artificial respiration, and saved your life. The Providence of God may have saved you from death sometime in your life. Have you ever missed death just by inches? I once knew an alcoholic man who shot himself in the head attempting to end his life. He was lying in a coma in a hospital room when I finally saw him. I and others prayed earnestly for him. He came out of the coma and after a long hospital stay he was released to go home. On a subsequent visit to his doctor, the doctor looked intently at the man and said, "Sir, I do not know why you are alive! God must have something else for you to do!" For the first time, that man began to attribute his second chance at life as a gift from God. He was restored to the church of Christ and began living a faithful Christian life like he had never really lived before.

You too may have had a Savior who saved you from death, temporarily. But no matter how many times you have been saved from death, there is coming a day when you will die. No, your body has an appointment with death. The Bible talks about this appointment many times. In a poetic way Joshua referred to his death

as going the way of all the earth. (Joshua 23:14) King David was on his death bed when he called his son Solomon to him. David said, "I go the way of all the earth." (1 Kings 2:2) But if you believe the Bible you may object and say, "I may still be living when Jesus comes again." Yes, you may be alive when Jesus returns in order to bring us into judgment, but even then, your body will die! That's right! Jesus' apostle Paul wrote, "I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality." (1 Corinthians 15:50-53 ESV) The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote, "...It is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment...." (Hebrews 9:27). Yes, this body, your body has an appointment with death and that's why you and I need a Savior.

But a second reason why you need a Savior is because death is **not the end** of your life! Your spirit is eternal! That's right! The Spirit that leaves your body at your death will continue to live after you put aside your physical body!

Many people in the world do **NOT** believe this! They do not believe that a person has an eternal spirit that survives physical death. However, it is a fact that **most** people who have ever lived on this planet **have believed** that there is a part of a human being that will outlive the death of the human body. This fact is evidenced by the many religions of the world. The part of a human being that survives death has been called the soul; it has also been called the human spirit. Jesus' half-brother James called it "the spirit". He wrote that faith without works is like the body without the spirit. (James 2:26) The body without the spirit is dead; faith without works is dead. Although the body is dead because its spirit has departed, James' implication is that the spirit is still alive somewhere! Let me ask you this: Do you believe that there is something inside your body that shall outlive the death of your body? What about your deceased friend or family member? Do you believe their spirits still exist somewhere?

The Bible explanation of this **hope** is found in the first book of the Bible. The record says that "Jehovah God formed the man of dust from the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living (soul)

creature." ([Genesis 2:7 ESV](#)) The "breath of life" that God breathed into the body was said to be made in "the image of God." The Genesis record says that God said to someone, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. (27) So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ([Gen 1:26, 27 ESV](#)) Centuries later Jesus made the point that "God is a spirit...." (John 4:24). Therefore, the thing about a human being that was made in God's image is the human spirit. Although most people since the beginning of time have believed in the eternal spirit of humans, they have not always known what lies on the other side of death. They have not always known about Heaven and Hell. When our physical body is suffering and draws near to death humans strongly begin to wonder about life after death.

The Old Testament man Job is an example of a man who was also in the dark about what happens to the surviving spirits of the dead. Job suffered greatly in body and spirit. He lost everything he had. It was just him and his wife left. They lost their children to a tornado. They lost their possessions to thieves. But then Job lost his health; he broke out with boils all over his body. Job responded to his suffering much like you and I might respond. In his heart, Job was very bitter about what had happened to him. He was suffering in body and spirit! He said, "When I lie down I say, 'When shall I arise?' But the night is long, and I am full of tossing till the dawn. My flesh is clothed with worms and dirt; my skin hardens, then breaks out afresh. My days are swifter than a weaver's shuttle and [they] come to their end without hope." [Listen carefully to Job's anguish] "Remember that my life is a breath; my eye will never again see good. The eye of him who sees me will behold me no more; while your eyes are on me, I shall be gone. As the cloud fades and vanishes, so he who goes down to Sheol [the place of the dead] does not come up; he returns no more to his house, nor does his place know him anymore. Therefore I will not restrain my mouth; I will speak in the anguish of my spirit; I will complain in the bitterness of my soul." ([Job 7:4-11 ESV](#))

Job needed light! Job wanted to understand! Job needed hope for his anguished spirit! So do I. So do you! Job needed light, he needed a Savior!

In this passage from the book of Job, the old man Job captured the essence of lost hope. Lost hope is found in the human spirit that knows nothing about the future beyond death! Even though Job believed that the human spirit at death would survive and go to a place called "Sheol", Job did not know that the spirit of a man

would come back up from Sheol! "He returns no more to his house," Job complained. Well, Job did not have the hope that the Savior of the world has brought to the world!

Since the arrival in the world of Jesus Christ, God's anointed One, the world has been blessed with light and information about the immortality of the soul. Jesus' apostle Paul affirms that we have a Savior, Jesus Christ, who has abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel. (2 Timothy 1:10) Seven hundred years before the Savior came, the old prophet Isaiah had predicted, "the people dwelling in darkness have seen a great light, and for those dwelling in the region and shadow of death, on them a light has dawned." ([Isaiah 9:1, 2](#); [Matthew 4:16 ESV](#))

The Savior Jesus said of Himself, "**I am the light of the world: he that follows me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life.**" ([John 8:12 KJV](#))

Friends, we need a Savior because we will survive the first death! We need a Savior to save us from the second death! That's right! There is a second death! The word "death" means separation. The first death is the separation of our spirits from our bodies. The second death is the separation of our NEW body and our eternal Spirit from God! Four times in the last book of the Bible, the book of Revelation, the "second death" is mentioned. Twice the words fall from the lips of Jesus Himself. Two other times the apostle John **saw** the words in visions.

Friends, there is a second separation, a second death. We will need a Savior! We need a Savior who will save us from Sheol, the place of the dead. That's right! The Bible teaches that every human being has an eternal spirit that can die a second death! And that is the second reason why you and I both need a Savior!

Friends, you have a Savior in Jesus Christ who died for your sins! You cannot avoid the first death. Visit a church of Christ near you and learn how to avoid the second death; do this now while you have time and breath!