

Life & Death: Two Concepts Central to Christianity

Read the following Scriptures and discover how central the concepts of life and death are to Christianity. Can you identify the mission of Jesus Christ, his reason for being?

(Underline all the words related to the terms “life” and “death”.)

1. Genesis 2:17: From the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, for in the day that you eat from it you shall surely die.
2. Deuteronomy 30:19: I have set before you life and death, the blessing and the curse. So choose life in order that you may live, you and your descendants.
3. Psalm 16:11: Thou wilt make known to me the path of life; in Thy presence is fullness of joy.
4. Psalms 36:8: Thou dost give them to drink of the river of Thy delights, for with Thee is the fountain of life.
5. Psalm 66:9: Who keeps us in life [lit. puts our soul in life]
6. Ezekiel 37:14: And I will put my Spirit within you, and you will come to life ...
7. John 1:4: In Him was life and the life was the light of men.
8. John 3:16: For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have *eternal* life [refers to life as God has it].
9. John 4:14: but the water that I shall give him shall become in him a well of water springing up to *eternal* life [refers to life as God has it].
10. John 5:39-40: You search the Scriptures, because you think that in them you have eternal life; and it is these that bear witness of Me; and you are unwilling to come to Me, that you may have life.
11. John 6:50-51: This is the bread that came down out of heaven so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down out of heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever;
12. John 6:53-58: Look these Scriptures up & meditate on them.
13. John 6:63: It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing; the words that I have spoken to you are spirit and are life.
14. John 7:37-39: Now on the last day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, “If any man is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture said, ‘From his innermost being [out of his belly] shall flow rivers of living water.’” But this He spoke of the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive.
15. John 10:10: The thief comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy; I came that they might have life and have might have it more abundantly.
16. John 11:25-26: Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in Me shall live even if he dies and everyone who lives and believes in Me shall never die. Do you believe this?”
17. John 14:6: Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.”

18. Acts 17:27-28: that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; for in Him we live and move and have our being, as even some of your own poets have said, 'For we are His offspring.'
19. Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is *eternal* life to everyone who believes. [Note: *eternal* refers to the nature of the life, not the extent of it.]
20. I Corinthians 15:22: For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.
21. II Corinthians 3:6: Who also made us adequate as servants of a new covenant, not of the letter, but of the Spirit; for the letter kills, but the Spirit gives life.

In the New Testament, the word "life" is translated from the Greek word "*Zoe*", meaning *life as a principle*. In the absolute sense, *life as God has it*, i.e., the state of possessing the property of life: vigor, liveliness, animate, vivacious; source of vigor, or liveliness.

The mission of Jesus Christ, his reason for being, was that we might have *life* and have it *more abundantly*. Note: "more abundantly" [Gr. *Perissos*] means to have something superabundant in quantity and superior in quality.