

What is every human being facing? (v.14)

Before we were saved — we each faced the devil who had the power of death over us.

How did that affect us? (vv.14-15)

We were slaves of the fear of death.

Not that we always thought about death. But we always tried not to think about death — or about what death really meant.

What did Jesus do?

Jesus partook of flesh and blood so He could die (v.14)

By dying, Jesus made propitiation for our sins (vv.16-17)

As a result, Jesus destroyed the devil's power over death (v.14)

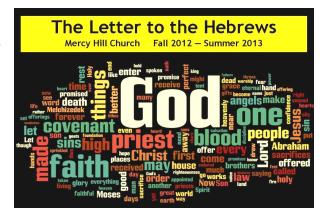
So why don't we need to fear death?

You don't need to fear God's punishment, because Jesus has propitiated all of God's wrath against you.

You don't need to fear losing anything in this life — because Jesus is your all-satisfying Treasure and death will bring you more of Him.

You don't need to fear the pain and suffering of dying, because Jesus will help you.

You don't need to fear leaving others with the hardship of your dying — because Jesus will help them.



HOME GROUP DISCUSSION OF SUNDAY'S TEACHING

(Sometimes in our home groups we talk about Sunday's teaching, so we can work together on responding to God's Word — asking questions, sharing insights, talking together.)

Honestly — how do you feel about the prospect of dying?

What aspect of death gives you the most fear?

Can you see from this passage how Jesus has freed us from the fear of death? Why or why not?

Do you ever wonder if — when you stand before God — you will really be forgiven? Have you had times when you looked to Jesus by faith — and felt Him assuring you that you are forgiven? What can you do to have more of those times?

Have you had times where were so filled with Jesus that you truly desired nothing else? How would that help overcome fear of death? What can you do to have more of those times?

Have you felt fear about the pain and suffering of death? How can the promise of Jesus' help overcome that fear?

Have you felt fear about the well-being of loved-ones left behind when you die? How does Jesus overcome that fear?

What questions did Sunday's message raise in your mind?

Share prayer requests that come up in the discussion, jot them down below, and pray for each other.

