

Fresh Fire Ministries
The Expository Teaching Ministry of Jay Duane Driver

“For Some Once, For Others Twice”

“And it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment.” Hebrews 9:27 (NKJV)

The full and complete victory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ over death, hell, and the grave is found in the context of the word once. He suffered once. He was crucified once. He died once and He got up on resurrection morning once. Had He not accomplished victory, He would have no doubt had to do it all over again. But because of what He did once, it strongly implies that He will never have to do it again. **“For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all; but the life He lives, He lives to God.” Romans 6:10 (NKJV)** The residual benefit of Jesus dying once is that the believer never has to live in fear of losing his or her salvation. If that were the case, then Jesus would have to die all over again to save us, in essence, more than once. Thank God for the power of once.

The power of once is also viewed in the context of our devotional text that refers to death. It is something that we must all do. It has been said there are two things that are for sure; death and taxes. Perhaps that warrants a correction. You don't have to pay your taxes but we must and we will surely die. Not to die in this body as a believer would ultimately commit us to an eternal existence of pain, sorrow, sickness, conflict, frustration, murder, envy, bigotry, hate, and every other imaginable transgression. So this body of sin and flesh must die. In fact, death is appointed to everyone who is born in sin and sharpened in iniquity after the transgression of Adam and Even in the garden. Here the idea of “appointed” means, “To reserve or to be laid up, or to be in store for.” It is an appointment that may be postponed by the grace of God but can never be canceled.

What we do once means that we will not have to do it again, or a second time. It means that we never did it before, and will never have to do it again in this case with one contingency. We must accept Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. **“For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” Romans 6:23 (NKJV)** Jesus paid our wages with His own blood and in return we receive the gift of eternal life thus guaranteeing that we who are saved and born again will only have to die once. We are born, and then born again, to die, and then live forevermore. Never to experience the sting of the second death that would cause us to be separated from God in outer darkness throughout eternity.

For unbelievers there will be a “second death.” **“Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.” Revelation 20:14-15 (NKJV)** Believers are born twice but die once. Unbelievers are born once but must die twice. Here's the picture. Unbelievers who have died without accepting Christ will rise from the dead, see the one who they rejected, bow their knee, and then die again. Believers will rise in victory and power never ever to taste death again. *“Go ahead; drive the nails in my hands. Laugh at me where you stand. Go ahead say it isn't me. The day will come when you will see. Cause I'll rise again. Ain't no power on earth can tie me down! Yes I'll rise again. Death can't keep me in the ground.” Dallas Holm*