**After Life**

**Lesson One - WHY DO WE DIE?**

Point of chapter 1 - The traditional view is that physical death (along with spiritual death) was part of the punishment for sin. Smith points out some possible problems with this view and suggests that if we see death as something that has always been a part of God’s plan for man it may be easier to accept. Smith suggests the fleshly experience of human life with all its trials and pain ultimately might be designed to test us and draw us into a closer relationship with God.

1. What does Ecclesiastes 3:2 and 11 say about death?
2. How do you define death? What does James 2:26 say? How does Ecclesiastes 12:7 describe death?

For questions 3-5, study Genesis 2:16 through the end of chapter 3.

1. Did Adam die the day he ate the forbidden fruit? How long did he live after he ate?
2. Was man made dust as a result of sin?
3. Consider Jesus statement in John 8:51 as a possible parallel: John 8:51 "Most assuredly, I say to you, if anyone keeps My word he shall never see death." In what sense are Jesus words true?
4. Psalm 8 says man was made “a little lower than the angels”. Hebrews 2:9 uses the same terminology speaking of the incarnation of Jesus. In what sense are we “a little lower than angels”? What did being made “a little lower than the angels enable Jesus to do? (Hebrews 2:9)
5. Would you be content living forever in a sin-free, perfect earthly environment? More content than what you anticipate from eternal life in heaven?
6. What does spiritual death mean to you? Are you as concerned about spiritual death as you are about physical death?