



Review

- The wages of sin is death (Rom 6:23). Death is separation, not cessation of existence.
- Man is an eternal being because God is eternal. After death comes judgment (Heb 9:27). There is eternal consequences beyond life in this world.
- In the first minutes of an unbeliever in hell, his senses and memories will be fully awoken, adding to his agony (Lk 16:19-31).
- Hell is a place of absolute poverty, where God's image and everything of value in a person will be stripped away, the sinful nature will be fully manifested. A place of agonizing pain, weeping, sorrow and rage. A place where God's wrath is intensely felt. Its ultimate terror is endlessness. It's a place of no return.
- Hell reveals the true face of sin, calls us to sever all ties with sin. It reveals the price Christ paid on the cross. It evokes our worship and thankfulness, emboldens our courage, strengthens us for the temporal sufferings in this life. It presents the solemnity of the gospel and the urgency of reaching the lost. Its shows what Christ has saved us from and magnifies our hope in heaven.

Realities to live in the light of

- Perhaps God allows this pandemic to awaken the world to its coming trouble.
- Ironically, most people fear pain and death, yet ignore Hell. (Lk 16:19-31)
- Most also don't think much of Heaven.
- Perhaps we have enjoyed too much of the riches of this world, and sunk in our roots here too deeply. (Lk 12:16-21)
- We think of heaven and hell only when tragedy strikes, when death draws near.
- Yet the Bible says, Heaven and Hell are realities we must grapple with because God is real. He is our Creator, Judge & Saviour.
- And He warns that many who think they are going heaven are not.

Growing our faith in the face of death (Part II)?

1. What happen to a believer at death
 - a. The Intermediate State
 - b. Resurrection at Final Judgment
2. What is Heaven? How does it strengthen our hope?
3. How then shall we live?

Can we truly know what is beyond this life?

But, as it is written, “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined, what God has prepared for those who love him”

(1Cor 2:9)

The whole truth

- these things God has revealed to us through the Spirit. For the Spirit searches everything, even the depths of God. (1Cor 2:10)

Eternity in Our Hearts

He has made everything beautiful in its time.

Also, **he has put eternity into man's heart,**
yet so that he cannot find out what God has done
from the beginning to the end.

(Ecc 3:11)

Insights of Eternity → Wisdom, Strength, Devotion

Psa 73:1 Truly God is good to Israel, to those who are pure in heart.

Psa 73:2 But as for me, my feet had almost stumbled, . . .

Psa 73:3 For **I was envious of the arrogant when I saw the prosperity of the wicked.**

Psa 73:4 For they have no pangs until death; their bodies are fat and sleek.

Psa 73:11 And they say, "How can God know? Is there knowledge in the Most High?"

Psa 73:12 Behold, these are the wicked; always at ease, they increase in riches.

Psa 73:13 All **in vain have I kept my heart clean** . . .

Psa 73:16 But when I thought how to understand this . . .

Psa 73:17 **until I went into the sanctuary of God; then I discerned their end.**

Psa 73:21 When my soul was embittered, . . .

Psa 73:22 **I was brutish and ignorant; I was like a beast toward you.**

Psa 73:23 Nevertheless, **I am continually with you; you hold my right hand.**

Psa 73:24 **You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.**

Psa 73:25 **Whom have I in heaven but you? And there is nothing on earth that I desire besides you.**

Psa 73:26 **My flesh and my heart may fail, but God is the strength of my heart and my portion forever.**

Death for believers—the portal into life

Heidelberg Catechism, Question 42:

- “Since, then, Christ died for us, why must we also die?”
- The answer: “Our death is not a satisfaction for our sin, but only a dying to sins and entering into eternal life.”

God’s word comforts us in the face of death

The LORD is my shepherd; I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures. He leads me beside still waters.

He restores my soul. He leads me in paths of righteousness for his name's sake.

Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff, they comfort me.

(Psa 23:1-4)

So What Happens to a Believer at Death?

a. Intermediate State

Shorter Catechism (WSC) Question 37—What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death?

- “**The souls** of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately **pass into glory**; and **their bodies**, being still united to Christ, do **rest in their graves, till the resurrection.**”

“The dust returns to the earth as it was, and the spirit returns unto God who gave it,” Eccl. 12:7

Intermediate State in Westminster Confession of Faith (WCF)

“The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies; and the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Besides these two places for souls departed from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none.” (Ch. 32; Sec. 1).

Intermediate State

We will be carried to Christ by angels

“There was a rich man And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores, who desired to be fed with what fell from the rich man's table. Moreover, even the dogs came and licked his sores. The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. . . .”

(Luke 16:19-22)

And he said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luk_23:43)

Intermediate State

We will be with Christ in our eternal home

I am hard pressed between the two. My desire is to depart and be with Christ, for that is far better. (Php 1:23)

So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Cor 5:6-8)

I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I come again, and will receive you unto myself; that where I am, there you may be also. (John 14:2, 3)

Intermediate State

The Psalmists' hope

- Psa 73:24 You guide me with your counsel, and afterward you will receive me to glory.
- Psa 17:15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.

Though the primary reference in Ps 17 of David is a reference to fellowship with God in this life, it is not unwarranted to see in them a reference to life after death.

Intermediate State

We will rest happily and reap the joy of our earthly labours

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, "Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on." "Blessed indeed," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!" (Rev 14:13)

Intermediate State

We will reign with Christ

Then I saw thrones, and seated on them were those to whom the authority to judge was committed.

Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus and for the word of God,

and those who had not worshiped the beast or its image and had not received its mark on their foreheads or their hands.

They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.

The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the first resurrection. (Rev 20:4-5)

Intermediate State

We will continue praying to God for His will to be done on earth

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the witness they had borne.

They cried out with a loud voice, "O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

Then they were each given a white robe and told to rest a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and their brothers should be complete, who were to be killed as they themselves had been.

(Rev 6:9-11)

Intermediate State

We will worship in heaven with the Church on earth

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses,
(Heb 12:1)

But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, . . . the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel (Heb 12:22-24)

By faith Abel offered to God a more acceptable sacrifice than Cain, . . . And through his faith, though he died, he still speaks. (Heb_11:4)

Intermediate State

We will support Christ's saving plan from heaven

And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, . . .
And he was transfigured before them, and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, . . .

And there appeared to them Elijah with Moses, and they were talking with Jesus. (Mk 9:2-4)

Intermediate State

We will be waiting to be clothed with our immortal body

'For we know that if our earthly house, this tent, is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation which is from heaven, if indeed, having been clothed, we shall not be found naked.

For we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life' (2 Cor. 5:1-4).

For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. . . .

For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.

And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. (Rom 8:19, 22-23)

The Resurrection For Final Judgment

Resurrected State

The Resurrection of Our Body

- The Fall Reversed.
- Heaven is becoming at home again, body and spirit in God's world.

Resurrected State

When will the Bodily Resurrection happen?

Premillennialism

Read Rev 20:1-6 chronologically after Rev 19:11, the coming of Christ.

Literal Interpretation of 1000 years reign in Rev. 20:2-3

Second Coming (Rev 19:11) → **Believers' Resurrection** (Rev 20:1-6) → **1000 years millennial reign** → **Unbelievers' Resurrection** (Rev 20:11-15) → Final Judgment → New Heaven N Earth

Amillennialism

Read Rev 20:1-6 as whole of the church age.

Figurative Interpretation of 1000 years reign in Rev 20:2-3 because Revelation is an Apocalyptic Genre

Second Coming → **One Believers' and Unbelievers' Resurrection** (Rev 20:11-15) → Final Judgment → New Heaven N Earth

- No 1000 years earthly millennial reign. Deceased Saints Reign with Christ in heaven during the church age. 1000 years figuratively means the long period in church age.
- The view held in Westminster Confession of Faith

WCF Modified by Premillennialist Bible Presbyterian

- WCF 33.1 God hath appointed a day, [BP Adds: (which word in Scripture in reference to the last things may represent a period of time including the thousand years following the visible, personal and pre-millennial return of Christ)], wherein He will judge the world in righteousness by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgement is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

Resurrected State

The General Resurrection of Believers and Unbelievers for Final Judgment

Do not marvel at this, for **an hour is coming** when **all who are in the tombs** will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the **resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil to **the resurrection of judgment**.
(John 5:28-29)

And I saw **the dead, great and small, standing before the throne**, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, **which is the book of life**.
And the dead were **judged by what was written in the books**, according to what they had done.
And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, . . .and they were judged, . . .
And **if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown** into the lake of fire.
(Rev 20:12-13, 15)

Resurrected State

The Heart of the Gospel

- **1Co 15:1** Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached to you**, which you received, in which you stand,
- 1Co 15:2 and by which you are being saved, if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—unless you believed in vain.
- 1Co 15:3 For I delivered to you as **of first importance** what I also received: that **Christ died** for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures,
- 1Co 15:4 that he **was buried**, that he **was raised** on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures,

Resurrected State

Christ's Resurrection is Integral to the Gospel

- 1Co 15:14 And **if Christ has not been raised**, then our preaching is in vain and **your faith is in vain**.
- 1Co 15:22 For as in Adam all die, so also **in Christ shall all be made alive**.
- 1Co 15:23 But each in his own order: **Christ the firstfruits**, then at his coming those who belong to Christ.

Resurrected State

Transformed for Heaven's Joy

- 1Co 15:51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed,**
- 1Co 15:52 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.
- 1Co 15:53 For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and **this mortal body must put on immortality.**
- 1Co 15:54 . . . "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Resurrected State

WSC Q. 38. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at the resurrection?

Answer: At the resurrection, believers being **raised up in glory**, shall be **openly acknowledged** and **acquitted** in the day of judgment, and made **perfectly blessed** in the full **enjoying of God to all eternity**

WSC Q1: What is the chief end of man?

Answer. The chief end of man is to **glorify God and enjoy Him forever.**

Resurrected State

Continuity with Our Earthly Body

But someone will ask, “How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?”

You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies.

(1 Cor 15:35-36)

And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, . . .

There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. . . .

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable.

It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. . . .

It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

(1 Co 15:37,42-44)

The first man was from the earth, . . . ; the second man is from heaven.

. . . as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven.

Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

(1 Cor 15:47-49)

Be Steadfast, Immovable

- 1Co 15:54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.”
- 1Co 15:58 Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.

Insights of Eternity → Wisdom, Strength, Devotion

Psa 73:13 All in vain have I kept my heart clean . . .

Psa 73:21 When my soul was embittered, . . .

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Q&A