

Theology Simply Explained — WSC37 “Believers' Departure to Paradise”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 37—especially explaining how the greatest benefit that believers get from Christ is Christ Himself.

Q37. 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 following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

The shorter catechism. Question lesson. This week is number 37. What benefits to Believers received from Christ to death? And the answer is The Souls of Believers are at their death made perfect in Holiness and do immediately pass into Glory. And their body is being still United to Christ to rest in their graves.

Till the resurrection. So, you could really Answer the question with one word. What benefits to Believers receive from Christ to death and the answer is Christ. Uh, Christ himself, Christ's immediate presence. Now, in order for you to have Christ himself and his immediate presence in order to That day when you die.

Um, be with him together in Paradise. There are a couple of things that must happen. First of all. You must either receive a resurrection body or be parted from your body because Uh, the body you have now cannot be where Jesus is now. You would either have to be like Jesus is glorified resurrected body.

Uh, but it won't be because there was a day appointed for Um, for the resurrection of men and Hebrews, 11 tells us That God's intention for his elect is that we would all receive that promised thing together at the same time. So, since of the two options resurrected body or nobody, at all, Resurrected body is not yet, open to us.

It is nobody at all. Uh, the other thing is, What must happen to your soul. Uh, because if you were to be in the immediate presence of Christ in all his glory, In a soul, that was still Um, affected by plagued with sin. Then.

Then the Holiness of God and the Holiness of Christ. Uh would Express themselves of course, in opposition to your sin. Just as they have from a distance and yet. The long-suffering and patience that God is expressing in this world in this life. As he is. Uh, Gathering has sent to himself.

This is the reason that he continues with patience. In this world. Because he is willing that none should perish, but that Well, it should come to the knowledge of the truth. And that's why for him a day is like a thousand years out of love for those whom he is saving.

And although the Lord And patiently bearest with us here. Still Out of love for us and hatred for sin which is like interconnected with his love for us. Um, He hates our sin and is against it and his Spirit trains us to hate our sin. And to be against it.

In glory. The patient purposes of God in this world are not operating. Um, Uh, it is. A place of Holiness. And Perfection. Uh, especially The accuser having been cast down and God's patience. Um, Ended because our Advocate has ascended. And now there is no one and who accuses us?

Uh, before God the way that Satan was permitted to accuse job for instance. Um, at the beginning of the Book of Job. And so, Uh, everyone who is there, everything that is there is perfectly sinless. Uh, the Lord Jesus sitting upon a throne. At the right hand of the Majesty and he himself, Sitting on the throne.

And raining in righteousness and and Holiness. So that there are now there only the Holy Angels, God our Father, The Souls of the just made perfect and Christ are mediator. And so, Uh, when you get Christ at your death, when you get Um second Corinthians 5 says, to be absent from the body and present with the Lord, which is better by far as he says in Philippians chapter 1.

You must be added to the number of those who are not just the souls of the just you already have. If you're a believer in Jesus, Uh, your soul is already one of the souls of the just You are already Justified there is therefore now no condemnation. The Saints and glory you on the day that you depart from here.

And are absent from your body and present with Christ are not going to be more justified on that day than you are the day that you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ. This is one of Marvels of justification by faith being righteous with God through faith. Uh, but on that day, not only will you be or have a soul of the just You will be a soul of the just made perfect.

And so, as you pass into the glory, In which you. Desire. The Lord Jesus like you should. Um, and Delight in him, like, you should remember, we heard, uh, yesterday. The morning sermon Matthew 9, verse 14, through 17 of the Delight that we should have in him. You're yeah, you won't have a body to fast, but of course, you wouldn't fast if you did.

Uh, when you had him then, The. Uh, the on that day you will Delighten him like you should, you will desire him like you should And you will have him. Um, in a way that was Uh, not possible. In this life for in this world, And so just as the Lord Jesus said to the converted Thief.

On the day that not just Jesus died, but the thief died. He had to die for this too. Today, you will be with me in Paradise.

The Lord Jesus. Uh, rightly says to you concerning the day that you come to die. Which is set, he has decided it, he knows when it is True Believer in Christ, you can take great comfort in that. And he has said to you concerning that day, on that day.

You will be together with him. In Paradise. On that day. The Lord Jesus's prayer. In John 17. Shall be answered. That he desires that Those whom his father has given to him. Would be with him where he is. To see his glory. And so precious Precious truth. One of the several reasons and you my family probably know.

Uh no many if not all of them. That this is one of my favorite or my favorite I would say. Catechism answer what benefits to Believers. Received from Christ at their death, or at death. The Souls of Believers are at their death made perfect in Holiness and to immediately pass into glory.

And their bodies being still United to Christ to rest in their graves till the resurrection.