

Sunday Evening, September 1, 2024

**Chap. XXXII. - of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead**

2 Corinthians 4:16–5:9

1. After death, the bodies of men decay and return to dust, but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal existence, return immediately to God, who gave them. The souls of the righteous are then made perfect in holiness and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory as they wait for the full redemption of their bodies. The souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness as they are kept for the judgment of the great day. Scripture recognizes no other place except these two for the souls which have been separated from their bodies.
2. At the last day those who are alive shall not die but shall be changed. All the dead shall be raised up with their selfsame bodies, and no other (although with different qualities), which shall be united again with their souls forever.
3. By the power of Christ the bodies of the unjust shall be raised to dishonor. The bodies of the just shall be raised to honor by his Spirit and brought into conformity with Christ's own glorious body.

\* \* \* \* \*

I. The Intermediate State Is the Same for All

A. Our Body Is Separated from Our Soul

1. God Created Us with Two Parts Gen. 2:7; Matt. 10:28
2. Death Separates Our Two Parts Eccl. 12:7; 2 Cor. 5:1; 2 Pet. 1:11; 2 Cor. 5:8; Phil. 1:22–24

B. Our Body Is Returned to Dust 2 Cor. 4:16; Gen. 3:19; 1 Cor. 15:26

Gen 38:24, Lev 21:9; Josh 7:15; 1 Sam 31:12,13; 1 Cor 10:31; Rom 14:23

C. Our Soul Is Conscious Without the Body

Phil. 1:23; Matt. 22:32; Lk. 20:38; Matt. 17:3; Rev. 5:9, 7:9; 14:1, 3  
Mk. 5:39; Lk. 8:52; Matt. 9:24; Jn. 11:11–14

D. Our Soul Is Judged Without the Body

1. At Death, Everyone Stands Before God Rev. 17:8; Rev. 21:27; Rev. 20:15
2. At Death, Everyone Enters Their Eternal State

II. The Intermediate State Is Different Sect. 1 and 3

A. Unbelievers' Souls at Death Enter Hell

1. Hell Is a Real Place
2. Hell Is for All Unbelievers  
Rev. 20:10; Matt. 25:41; Jude 6; Mk. 1:24; Lk. 8:31; Rev. 21:8; 2 Thess. 1:8; Matt. 7:13

B. Believers' Souls at Death Enter Heaven Sect 1

1. Death Is Our Way out of Sin LC Q 85; Ps. 31:10; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 14:13
2. Death Is Our Way Open to Christ  
LC Q 85; Jn. 5:24; Lk. 23:43; Ac. 7:59; Phil. 1:21–23; 2 Cor. 5:8; Ps 116:15

## QUOTES

"If there are a million roads into Hell, there's not one road out."

Leonard Ravenhill

"It is the anguish of such a sense of condemnation, in the anguish of a conscience that stings with the apprehension of the wrath and curse of God, that the gospel of God's free grace becomes as cold water to a thirsty soul and as good news from a far country."

John Murray

"O could we but perceive a thousandth part of the horror that is contained in an eternal hell, an eternal banishment from the face and favor of God, and the eternal impressions of His anger, we should never give ourselves rest one moment, till we had returned to God by a sincere repentance, and were reconciled to Him that made us; till we fled for refuge to the blood of Jesus, and to His sanctifying grace, which is the only hope that is set before us. We should never give ourselves leave to lie down, or awake in quiet while we were destitute of a saving interest in the salvation of Christ, and had attained to some clear evidence of it, and a well-grounded hope."

Isaac Watts

"What a subtle tempter Satan is. What a deceitful thing sin is. What a foolish creature corrupted man is. A subtle tempter indeed, who can persuade the greatest part of the world to go willfully into everlasting fire, when they have so many warnings and dissuasives as they have. A deceitful thing is sin indeed, that can bewitch so many thousands to part with everlasting life, for a thing so base and utterly unworthy! A foolish creature is man indeed, who will be so cheated of his salvation for nothing, yea, for a known nothing; and that by an enemy and a known enemy. You would think it impossible that any man in his wits should be persuaded for a trifle to cast himself into the fire, or water, or into a cold pit, to the destruction of his life. And yet men will be enticed to cast themselves into hell."

Richard Baxter

Westminster Shorter Catechism Q 37. What benefits do believers receive from Christ at death? A The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united in Christ, do rest in their graves, till the resurrection.

Westminster Larger Catechism Q. 86. What is the communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death? A The communion in glory with Christ, which the members of the invisible church enjoy immediately after death, is, in that their souls are then made perfect in holiness, and received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies, which even in death continue united to Christ, and rest in their graves as in their beds, till at the last day they be again united to their souls. Whereas the souls of the wicked are at their death cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, and their bodies kept in their graves, as in their prisons, till the resurrection and judgment of the great day.

When John Owen, the great Puritan, lay on his deathbed his secretary wrote (in his name) to a friend, "I am still in the land of the living." "Stop," said Owen. "Change that and say, I am yet in the land of the dying, but I hope soon to be in the land of the living."

C.S. Lewis in the Last Battle, "For those [who died] it was only the beginning of the real story. All their life in this world and all their adventures . . . had only been the cover and the title page: now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no one on earth has read: which goes on forever: in which every chapter is better than the one before."

R C Sproul writing of the death of a believer: "No person is more conscious, more aware, and more alert than when he passes through the veil from this world into the next. Far from falling asleep, we are awakened to glory in all of its significance. For the believer, death does not have the last word."