

# What Happens When We Die?

## Introduction

1. **There is a lot of speculation, wonder and generalizing about what happens when we die.**
  - A. **Most people think that we just go to heaven – as long as we haven't been really, really bad!**
  - B. **People overall, aren't really sure what happens because they have not read, studied, and understood what God has told us in the Bible about this very important matter.**
2. **This morning, we want to examine what God's word tells us about what happens to us when we die.**

## Life in the Flesh

1. **There are two parts of man.**
  - A. **The Spirit and the Body**

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him **who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Matthew 16:26 For what profit is it to a man if he gains the whole world, and **loses his own soul**? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?

1 Thessalonians 5:23 Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you completely; and may your whole **spirit, soul, and body** be preserved blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.

## 2. Death separates the two parts (body and soul).

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment,

Ecclesiastes 12:7 Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, And the spirit will return to God who gave it.

Acts 7:59 And they stoned Stephen as he was calling on God and saying, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit."

James 2:26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.

2 Peter 1:13-14 Yes, I think it is right, as long as I am in this tent, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that shortly I must put off my tent, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.

2 Timothy 4:6 For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure is at hand.

### A. The Body

1) **Dust**  
**Ecclesiastes 12:7**

2) **Grave**

John 12:17 Therefore the people, who were with Him when He called Lazarus out of his tomb and raised him from the dead, bore witness.

3) **Sleep**  
**1 Thessalonians 4:13-14**

## The World (place of life)

### 1. The Spirit's destination.

#### A. Saved – Paradise

Acts 2:38 Then Peter said to them, "Repent, and let every one of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit.

Acts 2:42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers.

1 Peter 3:21 There is also an antitype which now saves us—baptism (not the removal of the filth of the flesh, but the answer of a good conscience toward God), through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

#### B. Lost – Torment

2 Thessalonians 1:7-8 and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on those who do not know God, and on those who do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ.

Matthew 7:21-23 "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

#### C. At the point of death one will enter through the Narrow or the Wide Gate!

**Matthew 7:13-14**

## Hades

**1. At the moment an individual dies, their body returns to the earth and the spirit goes to Hades.**

**A. Our spirit does not go to Heaven, it goes to Hades.**

**1) The best explanation of what happens at the point of death is what Jesus said in Luke 16:19-31:**

**Luke 16:19-31**

**2. There are two gates into Hades – the narrow and the wide. Most everyone will go to Torment through the wide gate, while a few will enter through the narrow gate into Paradise.**

- There is a great gulf fixed between Paradise and Torment. Whichever place we find ourselves in, that will be our eternal destiny!**

**A. Paradise**

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said to him, "Assuredly, I say to you, today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Acts 2:31 he, foreseeing this, spoke concerning the resurrection of the Christ, that His soul was not left in Hades, nor did His flesh see corruption.

Philippians 1:21-23 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live on in the flesh, this will mean fruit from my labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.' " "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

## B. Torment.

Luke 16:23 And **being in torments in Hades**, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.

2 Peter 2:4 For if God did not spare the angels who sinned, but cast them down to hell and delivered them into chains of darkness, to be reserved for judgment;

2 Peter 2:9 then the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations and to **reserve the unjust under punishment** for the day of judgment,

Jude 1:6 And the angels who did not keep their proper domain, but left their own abode, **He has reserved in everlasting chains under darkness** for the judgment of the great day;

## The Resurrection

### 1. **Warnings to prepare.**

**A. To be ready for death and the resurrection we have had and continue to have many warnings to prepare ourselves today. While we are now alive, this is our only opportunity to prepare and be ready for our eternity.**

**Romans 2:4-11**

**Hebrews 10:28-31**

Hebrews 2:1-3 Therefore we must **give the more earnest heed to the things we have heard**, lest we drift away. For if the word spoken through angels proved steadfast, and every transgression and disobedience **received a just reward**, how shall we escape **if we neglect so great a salvation**, which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed to us by those who heard Him,

**2 Peter 3:9-14**

## 2. The resurrection.

### A. The resurrection will occur at the second coming of Christ.

#### 1 Corinthians 15:42-44

Luke 20:37-38 But even Moses showed in the burning bush passage that **the dead are raised**, when he called the Lord 'THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB.' For He is not the God of the dead but of the living, for all live to Him."

John 5:28-29 Do not marvel at this; for the hour is coming in which all who are in the graves will hear His voice **and come forth**—those who have done good, to **the resurrection of life**, and those who have done evil, to the **resurrection of condemnation**.

1 Corinthians 15:51-52 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but **we shall all be changed**—in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and **the dead will be raised incorruptible**, and **we shall be changed**.

1 Thessalonians 4:16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first**.

## Judgment Day

Hebrews 9:27 And as it is appointed for men to die once, but **after this the judgment,**

**1. The judgment day will occur simultaneously with the great resurrection day at the second coming of Christ.**

**A. The faithful saints will be rewarded.**

2 Corinthians 5:10 For **we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ,** that each one may receive the things done in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.

**B. The unfaithful and disobedient will be condemned.**

John 12:48 He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges **him—the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day.**

**Revelation 20:12-15**

## Heaven and Hell

Matthew 25:34 Then the King will say to those on His right hand, '**Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom** prepared for you from the foundation of the world:

- 1. Those who have died and entered through the narrow gate into Paradise will find their eternal home in Heaven at the Judgment Day! Those who are alive at the second coming of Christ will be judged and if found faithful, will find their eternal home in Heaven!**

**Revelation 21:1-7**

**Revelation 22:1-5**

Matthew 25:41 "Then He will also say to those on the left hand, '**Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire** prepared for the devil and his angels:

- 2. Those who have died and entered through the wide gate into Torment will find their eternal home in Hell at the Judgment Day. Those who are alive at the second coming of Christ will be judged and if found unfaithful, will find their eternal home in Hell.**

Matthew 10:28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. But rather fear Him who is able to **destroy both soul and body in hell.**

Mark 9:47-48 And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye, rather than having two eyes, to be cast into hell fire—where '**THEIR WORM DOES NOT DIE AND THE FIRE IS NOT QUENCHED.**'

**Matthew 25:30-46**

