

Finding Light in the Darkness

Session 20: Major Doctrines, part 5
Spirit Realm and Last Things
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Spirit Realm

Lies About the Spirit Realm

- No spirit realm
- Demons cause all problems, we're powerless
- Satan is equal counterpart to God
- Devil will leave me alone if I leave him alone
- We become angels when we die
- Angels are here to do our bidding
- You can talk with dead people's spirits
- Christians can be demon possessed

A demon cannot possess or own what God has purchased and owns – 1 Cor 6:19-20

Source & Nature of Angels

- Created spirit beings – Rom 8:38-39, Ps 104:4, Heb 1:13-14
- Messengers of God to accomplish His will – Heb 1:13-14, Ps 103:20
- Worship God – Rev 7:11
- Protect those who fear the Lord – Ps 34:7

Some angels have sinned.

Satan & Demons

- Satan originally a high ranking angel – Ez 28:14-16
- Rebelled, wanted to be like God – Isa 14:12-15
- Other angels followed him – Rev 12:7-9
- Demons are fallen angels who will be judged – 2 Pet 2:4, Jude 6, 1 Cor 6:3
- They lie & deceive – 2 Cor 11:13-15, Jn 8:44
- Satan tempted man – Gen 3:1-3
- Now god of this world – 2 Cor 4:4, Jn 14:30, 16:11

- **His goal: to kill, steal & destroy – Jn 10:10**
- **Defeated by Jesus – Heb 2:14-15**
- **Knows he only has a short time left – Rev 12:12**
- **Will suffer eternally in Lake of Fire – Rev 20:10**

Satan tempted man with the same temptation that caused his own fall, the desire to be like God (Isa 14:14, Gen 3:5).

Word Satan means “adversary” or one who opposes (see 2 Thes 2:3-4, Rev 12:10).

Satan and demons seem to prefer either of two extremes: to be totally ignored or studied with great interest – to believe they are involved with nothing or with everything.

Satan, the Devil

- **“How you are fallen from heaven, O Lucifer, son of the morning! ... For you have said in your heart: ‘I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God; I will also sit on the mount of the congregation On the farthest sides of the north; I will ascend above the heights of the clouds, I will be like the Most High.’ Yet you shall be brought down to Sheol, To the lowest depths of the Pit. — Isaiah 14:12-15 (NKJV)**

“Son of man, take up a lamentation for the king of Tyre, and say to him, ‘Thus says the Lord God: “You *were* the seal of perfection, Full of wisdom and perfect in beauty. You were in Eden, the garden of God; Every precious stone *was* your covering: The sardius, topaz, and diamond, Beryl, onyx, and jasper, Sapphire, turquoise, and emerald with gold. The workmanship of your timbrels and pipes Was prepared for you on the day you were created. “You *were* the anointed cherub who covers; I established you; You were on the holy mountain of God; You walked back and forth in the midst of fiery stones. You *were* perfect in your ways from the day you were created, Till iniquity was found in you. “By the abundance of your trading You became filled with violence within, And you sinned; Therefore I cast you as a profane thing Out of the mountain of God; And I destroyed you, O covering cherub, From the midst of the fiery stones. “Your heart was lifted up because of your beauty; You corrupted your wisdom for the sake of your splendor; I cast you to the ground, I laid you before kings, That they might gaze at you. “You defiled your sanctuaries By the multitude of your iniquities, By the iniquity of your trading; Therefore I brought fire from your midst; It devoured you, And I turned you to ashes upon the earth In the sight of all who saw you. All who knew you among the peoples are astonished at you; You have become a horror, And *shall be* no more forever.” ’ ’ — Ezekiel 28:12-19 (NKJV)

Guidance from Spirit World

- **‘And the person who turns to mediums and familiar spirits, to prostitute himself with them, I will set My face against that person and cut him off from his people. — Leviticus 20:6 (NKJV)**
- **.... And do not let your people practice fortune-telling, or use sorcery, or interpret omens, or engage in witchcraft, or cast spells, or function as mediums**

or psychics, or call forth the spirits of the dead. Anyone who does these things is detestable to the Lord. — Deuteronomy 18:10-12 (NLT)

Christians must pray to God only and seek counsel only from Him and His Word. God may use angels to accomplish His will, but we are not to pursue communication with angels (or spirits) in any form. If you encounter a true angel of God, he will always speak in agreement with God's Word and lead you to worship God alone.

I, John, am the one who heard and saw all these things. And when I heard and saw them, I fell down to worship at the feet of the angel who showed them to me. But he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this book. Worship only God!" — Revelation 22:8-9 (NLT)

Fortune telling includes astrology, horoscope, palm reading, crystal balls, etc. Other practices forbidden include Ouija boards, séances, tarot cards, spirit guides, numerology, black magic, white magic, Wicca, witchcraft, spells, etc. Basically, anything that offers guidance other than from the Lord and His Word.

And when they say to you, "Seek those who are mediums and wizards, who whisper and mutter," should not a people seek their God? *Should* they seek the dead on behalf of the living? To the law and to the testimony! If they do not speak according to this word, *it is* because *there is* no light in them. — Isaiah 8:19-20 (NKJV)

Demonic spirits are deceivers—the original con artists. They can appear to be angels of light and truth, or even your dead relative. They've been around a long time and have seen and heard a lot from their spiritual vantage point. They will use that information to lure people into dangerous and forbidden activities.

Spiritual Warfare

- **There is an unseen war in the spirit realm**
 - ♦ **Then he said, "Don't be afraid, Daniel. Since the first day you began to pray for understanding and to humble yourself before your God, your request has been heard in heaven. I have come in answer to your prayer. But for twenty-one days the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia blocked my way. Then Michael, one of the archangels, came to help me, and I left him there with the spirit prince of the kingdom of Persia. — Daniel 10:12-13 (NLT)**

We are called to work to enforce the defeat of evil spiritual forces. Most often, this is done by exposing their lies and error with the Truth from God. But there is also a spiritual aspect which we need to participate in an appropriate manner.

There is spiritual opposition that we need to overcome.

We Have Victory in Jesus

- **But you belong to God, my dear children. You have already won a victory over those people, because the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world. — 1 John 4:4 (NLT)**
- **... If God is for us, who can ever be against us? — Romans 8:31 (NLT)**

- **... When the enemy comes in like a flood, The Spirit of the Lord will lift up a standard against him. — Isaiah 59:19 (NKJV)**

This is the most important place to begin with spiritual warfare. It is *only* because of God in us that enables to successfully fight against an otherwise stronger and wiser foe.

Jesus has won the victory, but we need to work to set the captives free. Clean up operations.

Well Equipped - Ephesians 6:10-18

- **A final word: Be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on all of God's armor so that you will be able to stand firm against all strategies of the devil. For we are not fighting against flesh-and-blood enemies, but against evil rulers and authorities of the unseen world, against mighty powers in this dark world, and against evil spirits in the heavenly places. Therefore, put on every piece of God's armor so you will be able to resist the enemy in the time of evil. Then after the battle you will still be standing firm.**
- **Stand your ground, putting on the belt of truth and the body armor of God's righteousness. For shoes, put on the peace that comes from the Good News so that you will be fully prepared. In addition to all of these, hold up the shield of faith to stop the fiery arrows of the devil. Put on salvation as your helmet, and take the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. Pray in the Spirit at all times and on every occasion. Stay alert and be persistent in your prayers for all believers everywhere. — Ephesians 6:10-18 (NLT)**

It is easy to lose sight of where the real battle is taking place.

Notice that the armor is basically defensive. The sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, is the offensive part of the armor (Heb 4:12). Prayer is another offensive tool in the battle.

Mighty Weapons

- **For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh. For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal but mighty in God for pulling down strongholds, casting down arguments and every high thing that exalts itself against the knowledge of God, bringing every thought into captivity to the obedience of Christ, — 2 Corinthians 10:3-5 (NKJV)**

God's truth, His Word. If you don't know God, how can you fight?

Then we will no longer be immature like children. We won't be tossed and blown about by every wind of new teaching. We will not be influenced when people try to trick us with lies so clever they sound like the truth. Instead, we will speak the truth in love, growing in every way more and more like Christ, who is the head of his body, the church. — Ephesians 4:14-15 (NLT)

Fight of Faith

- **For every child of God defeats this evil world, and we achieve this victory**

through our faith. And who can win this battle against the world? Only those who believe that Jesus is the Son of God. — 1 John 5:4-5 (NLT)

- **Fight the good fight for the true faith.**
— 1 Timothy 6:12 (NLT)
- **Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.** — Romans 12:21 (NKJV)

Balance Important

- **Look, I have given you authority over all the power of the enemy, and you can walk among snakes and scorpions and crush them. Nothing will injure you. But don't rejoice because evil spirits obey you; rejoice because your names are registered in heaven.** — Luke 10:19-20 (NLT)
- **So humble yourselves before God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.**
— James 4:7 (NLT)

It is easy to become overly focused on demonic forces. A proper balance is that of following and serving the Lord while dealing with spiritual opposition only as needed.

We don't need demon-buster specialists in the Kingdom of God. We are all equipped to deal with opposing forces as a normal course of business in living out our Christian walk by faith.

Don't Be Neutralized

- **Anger & strife** – Gal 5:15, Eph 4:31
- **Bitterness** – Eph 4:31, Jam 3:14-16
- **Unforgiveness** – Mat 18:32-35
- **Believe lies** – 1 Tim 4:1-2, 2 Cor 10:5
- **Ignorance** – 2 Cor 2:11
- **Compromise** – Eph 4:27
- **Sin & self will** – Jam 3:14-16

You are righteous in Jesus and do not earn position or authority by being good. However, allowing sin or compromises of any kind diminishes your ability to effectively stand against the enemy.

Practical Application

- **Questions to ask**
 - ♦ **Ask the Lord by the Holy Spirit for revelation**
 - ♦ **Disobeyed God on something?**
 - ♦ **Not forgiving what God forgave?**
 - ♦ **Bitterness or strife?**
 - ♦ **An area of self will or rule?**
- **Then deal with spiritual opposition if remains**

- **Not getting good, but eliminating obstacles**
 - ♦ **nor give place to the devil. — Ephesians 4:27 (NKJV)**

Often, we are our own worst enemies. We seek to ignore God's ways and wonder why we are having troubles. It is easy to blame the devil when it is really us.

However, once you go to the Lord, ask for insight, and take appropriate action, if the assault is still present, then address it spiritually as an attack from the enemy.

Spiritual Realm Summary

- **Angels are created beings who worship and work for God**
- **Satan and demons actively oppose the work of God seeking to kill, steal, & destroy**
- **We are called and equipped to effectively engage in the battle bringing deliverance to many**
- **It is a fight of faith in which we pursue God and truth while standing against evil and compromise**

Last Things

Lies About End Times

- **This world will go on forever**
- **There is no hell or eternal punishment**
- **Christians will be taken out before the Great Tribulation**
- **Only really good Christians go in the "Rapture"**

What would it be worth to know the future?

Changing fuel pump in Idaho outside with -5 degree temperature.

Would buy Microsoft or Google stock early on.

What if a powerful man showed up who could heal the sick, call fire down from heaven, and do many miracles? What if he claimed that he was god and that you should worship him? Would you think the God of the Bible had fallen off His throne? Would you begin to wonder if what you have believed is really the truth? If someone like this is a deceiver, it would be good to know it ahead, wouldn't it? Well, the Bible tells us that a very convincing counterfeit will show up on the scene sometime in the near future. We are told how to spot the counterfeit and what to do.

Why Study End Times?

- **Wrong expectations cause problems**
 - ♦ **Jews Missed Jesus**
- **Know everything under control**
- **Show when we arrive**
 - ♦ **Sign Posts**

Jesus Will Come Back

- **When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. — John 14:3 (NLT)**
- **... “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!”
— Acts 1:11 (NLT)**
- **Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see him— even those who pierced him. And all the nations of the world will mourn for him. Yes! Amen! — Revelation 1:7 (NLT)**

Before Jesus Returns

- **... let us clarify some things about the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ and how we will be gathered to meet him. Don't be so easily shaken or alarmed by those who say that the day of the Lord has already begun. For that day will not come until there is a great rebellion against God and the man of lawlessness is revealed—the one who brings destruction. He will exalt himself and defy everything that people call god and every object of worship. He will even sit in the temple of God, claiming that he himself is God.
— 2 Thessalonians 2:1-4 (NLT)**

This is called the Abomination of Desolation in Matthew 24:15. It is also referenced in several places in the book of Daniel.

Abomination of Desolation

- **“Therefore when you see the ‘abomination of desolation,’ spoken of by Daniel the prophet, standing in the holy place” For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been since the beginning of the world until this time, no, nor ever shall be. And unless those days were shortened, no flesh would be saved; but for the elect's sake those days will be shortened. “Then if anyone says to you, ‘Look, here is the Christ!’ or ‘There!’ do not believe it. For false christs and false prophets will rise and show great signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect. — Matthew 24:15-25 (NKJV)**

The Abomination of Desolation (2 Thes 2:1-4, Mat 24:15, Daniel 9:27, 11:31, 12:11) is an important event signaling the beginning of the Great Tribulation. While there is not enough

information to predict exactly what will happen, there is enough to form a “sign post” that should be identifiable when it occurs. The important points are included in Daniel.

And forces shall be mustered by him, and they shall defile the sanctuary fortress; then they shall take away the daily *sacrifices*, and place *there* the abomination of desolation. Those who do wickedly against the covenant he shall corrupt with flattery; but the people who know their God shall be strong, and carry out *great exploits*. And those of the people who understand shall instruct many; yet *for many* days they shall fall by sword and flame, by captivity and plundering. Now when they fall, they shall be aided with a little help; but many shall join with them by intrigue. And *some* of those of understanding shall fall, to refine them, purify *them*, and make *them* white, *until* the time of the end; because *it is* still for the appointed time. “Then the king shall do according to his own will: he shall exalt and magnify himself above every god, shall speak blasphemies against the God of gods, and shall prosper till the wrath has been accomplished; for what has been determined shall be done. He shall regard neither the God of his fathers nor the desire of women, nor regard any god; for he shall exalt himself above *them all*. — Daniel 11:31-37 (NKJV)

Which is Right?

- **Pre-Trib**
- **Post-Trib**
- **Mid-Trib**
- **Pre-Wrath**

Which of three would you prefer to be true? The Bible teaches the Pre-Wrath Rapture of the Church.

Many current teachings about end times are inaccurate because they have made a faulty assumption that “pre-trib” is correct. The “Left Behind” series by Tim LaHaye is interesting, but based on a major wrong assumption about end times. Hal Lindsay’s material (“Late, Great Planet Earth”) is also based on a wrong assumption.

Major Source of Confusion – Great Tribulation vs. Wrath of God

This is probably the most frequent cause of error and confusion when people are studying end times in the Bible. If don’t understand the difference between the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God, you cannot understand end times!

So what is the difference...?

Great Tribulation or Wrath?

- **Two Different Events!**
 - ♦ **Tribulation: persecution, Beast, 666, idol worship**
 - ♦ **Wrath: seven plagues, witnesses (protected)**
- **Two Different Sources!**
 - ♦ **Tribulation: from Satan**

- ♦ Wrath of God: from God
- Two Different Purposes!
 - ♦ Tribulation: deceive and destroy all people
 - ♦ Wrath: judgment against Beast & his followers
- Two Different Times!
 - ♦ Tribulation: at beginning of end times
 - ♦ Wrath: after the Great Tribulation

GT Before Signs in Heavens

- **“Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, and the moon will not give its light; the stars will fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. — Matthew 24:29-30 (NKJV)**

Wrath After Signs in Heavens

- **I looked when He opened the sixth seal, and behold, there was a great earthquake; and the sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the moon became like blood. And the stars of heaven fell to the earth, as a fig tree drops its late figs when it is shaken by a mighty wind. Then the sky receded as a scroll when it is rolled up, and every mountain and island was moved out of its place. And the kings of the earth, the great men, the rich men, the commanders, the mighty men, every slave and every free man, hid themselves in the caves and in the rocks of the mountains, and said to the mountains and rocks, “Fall on us and hide us from the face of Him who sits on the throne and from the wrath of the Lamb! For the great day of His wrath has come, and who is able to stand?” — Revelation 6:12-17 (NKJV)**

Since the Great Tribulation occurs just prior to the signs in the heavens and the Wrath of God is poured out right after the signs in the heavens, the Wrath of God must occur after the Great Tribulation.

So, when does Jesus come back to get us?

When Does Jesus Come?

- **For as the lightning comes from the east and flashes to the west, so also will the coming of the Son of Man be. “Immediately after the tribulation of those days the sun will be darkened, Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, and then all the tribes of the earth will mourn, and they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory. And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. — Matthew 24:27-31 (NKJV)**

The Bible is extremely clear. Jesus comes to get us (the resurrection of the dead, Rapture) immediately after the Great Tribulation, but before the outpouring of God's Wrath (judgment).

Elect = chosen ones, believers (that's us ☺, 1 Pet 1:2, Col 3:11-12). Compare a "bride elect"

The Bible does not teach a secret return of Jesus.

Wrath of God

- **Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and marvelous: seven angels having the seven last plagues, for in them the wrath of God is complete. — Revelation 15:1 (NKJV)**

The Wrath of God takes the form of seven plagues that are poured out in judgment upon the Antichrist and other enemies of God. More information on these plagues is found in chapters 8-11 and 16 of the Book of Revelation. The plagues are not part of the Great Tribulation!

Believers Here or Not?

- **Here for the Great Tribulation**
 - ♦ "Then they will deliver you up to tribulation and kill you, and you will be hated by all nations for My name's sake. — Matthew 24:9 (NKJV)
 - ♦ "Immediately after the tribulation of those days Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in heaven, And He will send His angels with a great sound of a trumpet, and they will gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other. — Matthew 24:29-31 (NKJV)
- **Not suffer God's Wrath**
 - ♦ For God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain salvation through our Lord Jesus Christ, — 1 Thessalonians 5:9 (NKJV)

You may hear someone say that Christians won't be here during the Great Tribulation because the Bible says we are not appointed to wrath. A person will only say that if they don't understand the difference between the Great Tribulation and the Wrath of God.

After the Wrath

- **... an angel ... laid hold of the dragon, that serpent of old, who is the Devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; ... Then I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for their witness to Jesus and for the word of God, who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received his mark on their foreheads or on their hands. And they lived and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. — Revelation 20:1-4 (NKJV)**

After the Wrath of God, Satan will be bound for 1,000 years. Jesus and His people will reign over the unbelievers who survived the plagues of the Wrath of God (see Rev 20:8-9).

Satan Set Free, Cast into LOF

- **Now when the thousand years have expired, Satan will be released from his prison and will go out to deceive the nations which are in the four corners of the earth, Gog and Magog, to gather them together to battle, whose number is as the sand of the sea. They went up on the breadth of the earth and surrounded the camp of the saints and the beloved city. And fire came down from God out of heaven and devoured them. The devil, who deceived them, was cast into the lake of fire and brimstone — Revelation 20:7-10 (NKJV)**

White Throne Judgment

- **Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, ... I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire. — Revelation 20:11-15 (NKJV)**

The dead are those who are spiritually dead. To God, there are only two kinds of people.

The spiritually alive are those who belong to Him with their sin debt paid by faith in Jesus.

The spiritually dead are those who are cut off from God by their sin debt for which they have refused Jesus' salvation and lordship.

New Heavens, Earth, etc.

- **Now I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,.... God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away.” — Revelation 21:1-4 (NKJV)**

Your Invitation

- **The Spirit and the bride say, “Come.” Let anyone who hears this say, “Come.” Let anyone who is thirsty come. Let anyone who desires drink freely from the water of life. — Revelation 22:17 (NLT)**
- **... that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. — For “whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved.” — Romans 10:9, 13 (NKJV)**

Jesus will come back for ONLY those who belong to Him!

Be Strong and Watch Out

- **Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord and in the power of His might. —**

Ephesians 6:10 (NKJV)

- **Watch therefore, for you do not know when the master of the house is coming—in the evening, at midnight, at the crowing of the rooster, or in the morning— lest, coming suddenly, he find you sleeping. And what I say to you, I say to all: Watch!” — Mark 13:35-37 (NKJV)**

End Times Summary

- **Now... Time of relative peace**
- **Abomination of Desolation**
- **Great Tribulation – demonic persecution**
- **Signs in sun, moon, & stars**
- **Return of Jesus & gathering of saints**
 - **Not a partial or secret Rapture**
- **Wrath of God – judgment from God**
- **Millennium – 1,000 year reign**
- **White Throne Judgment – of spiritually dead**
- **New Jerusalem – our new home**
- **Eternity – forever with God**

Watch for important signs...

Abomination of Desolation signals beginning of Great Tribulation

Signs in sun, moon & stars signal return of Jesus and beginning of the Wrath of God

So what happens when a person dies?

What Happens When You Die?

- **Depends on who you belong to...**
 - ♦ **Instantly go to be with the Lord if a believer – 2 Cor 5:4-6, Lk 23:43**
 - ♦ **Instantly go to a place of torment awaiting judgment if not a believer – Lk 16:22-23, 28**
- **Not soul sleep (unconscious state)**
 - ♦ **Jesus didn't believe it – Lk 16:19-31, 23:42-43**
 - ♦ **Paul didn't believe it – 2 Cor 5:6-8**

People will live somewhere for eternity. Individuals have not existed for eternity. Each person has a beginning at the point of conception, but will live eternally somewhere after that point.

Soul sleep is a teaching that your consciousness ceases at the moment of death and does not return until the resurrection of your body at the return of Jesus (if you are a believer). This is based largely on several verses that refer to physical death as “sleep” (See John 11:11-14).

However, Jesus did not believe in soul sleep as demonstrated in the story of the rich man and Lazarus (Luke 16:19-31). Also, Jesus promised one thief crucified with Him that he would be

with Him in paradise the day he died (Luke 23:42-43). Also, Paul did not believe in soul sleep since he expected to be with the Lord as soon as he left his body in death (2 Cor 5:6-8).

Judgment of Christians

- **Not White Throne Judgment**
 - ♦ “I tell you the truth, those who listen to my message and believe in God who sent me have eternal life. They will never be condemned for their sins, but they have already passed from death into life. — John 5:24 (NLT)
- **Judgment Seat of Christ – your service**
 - ♦ 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. — 2 Corinthians 5:10 (NKJV)
 - ♦ But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.” So then each of us shall give account of himself to God. — Romans 14:10-12 (NKJV)

All will live eternally, but not all will have eternal life. Eternal life from God’s perspective is to be alive spiritually, connected to Him.

Life Work Tested by Fire

- For no other foundation can anyone lay than that which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each one’s work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one’s work, of what sort it is. If anyone’s work which he has built on it endures, he will receive a reward. If anyone’s work is burned, he will suffer loss; but he himself will be saved, yet so as through fire. — 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 (NKJV)

Judgment of Non-Christians

- And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment, — Hebrews 9:27 (NLT)
- And I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God’s throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. And all were judged according to their deeds. Then death and the grave were thrown into the lake of fire. This lake of fire is the second death. And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. — Revelation 20:11-15 (NLT)

The “dead” who are being judged at the Great White Throne Judgment are those who are spiritually dead, those cut off from God.

Those who are alive in Christ have already passed from death to life (Jn 5:24) and will have already been raised to reign as kings and priests with Christ long before the Great White Throne Judgment (see Rev 1:5-6, 20:4-6).

Eternal Punishment

- **And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire. — Revelation 20:15 (NLT)**
- **... Away with you, you cursed ones, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his demons. -- And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous will go into eternal life.” — Matthew 25:41, 46 (NLT)**
- **..., “Anyone who worships the beast and his statue or who accepts his mark on the forehead or on the hand must drink the wine of God’s anger. And they will be tormented with fire and burning sulfur in the presence of the holy angels and the Lamb. The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night,” — Revelation 14:9-11 (NLT)**

We don't like the idea of eternal suffering. Unfortunately, those who refuse Jesus' payment for their sins will have to pay the price themselves. God has done everything possible to save everyone short of overriding each person's free will. Each one who is cast into the lake of fire will be without excuse (Rom 1:18-21).

Other verses concerning eternal punishment...

Then the devil, who had deceived them, was thrown into the fiery lake of burning sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever. — Revelation 20:10 (NLT)

That is the way it will be at the end of the world. The angels will come and separate the wicked people from the righteous, throwing the wicked into the fiery furnace, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth. — Matthew 13:49-50 (NLT)

Resurrection of Our Bodies

- **... when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the Christians who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. — 1 Thessalonians 4:14-17 (NLT)**

Notice that the verse says, “God will bring back with [Jesus] the believers who have died” when Jesus returns. That means we were with Jesus after we died. We are returning to earth with Him for the resurrection of our bodies and the gathering of the believers who have not yet died. This is often called the “Rapture.”

New Body? (1 Cor 15:35-58)

- **But someone may ask, “How will the dead be raised? What kind of bodies will they have?” What a foolish question! There are also bodies in the heavens and bodies on the earth. The sun has one kind of glory, while the moon and stars each have another kind. And even the stars differ from each other in their glory. It is the same way with the resurrection of the dead.**
- **Our earthly bodies are planted in the ground when we die, but they will be raised to live forever. Our bodies are buried in brokenness, but they will be raised in glory. They are buried in weakness, but they will be raised in strength. They are buried as natural human bodies, but they will be raised as spiritual bodies.**
- **.... What I am saying, dear brothers and sisters, is that our physical bodies cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. These dying bodies cannot inherit what will last forever. But let me reveal to you a wonderful secret. We will not all die, but we will all be transformed! It will happen in a moment, in the blink of an eye, when the last trumpet is blown. For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever.**
- **And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies. Then, when our dying bodies have been transformed into bodies that will never die, this Scripture will be fulfilled: “Death is swallowed up in victory. — 1 Corinthians 15:35-58 (NLT)**

For More Information

- **End Times - Putting the Pieces in Place**
- **BB #15 – End Times Overview**
- **www.life4square.com**

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