

Bible Study on the Intermediate and Eternal State of Believers

June 16, 2021

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2 Corinthians 5:1 – 8.

There are three aspects of death;

- Spiritual death is when your spirit is separated from God because of sin. This was the state of Adam and Eve after they sinned.
- Physical death is when your body dies and your spirit is separated from your body. Adam and Eve did not die physically when they sinned, but they did die later.
- The second death is when you are separated from God forever in hell, Revelation 20:14 - 15.

For those who trust in Christ for eternal life, they receive new life with the promise of never dying (John 11:25). Their bodies die but they do not. When believers die they are separated from the body and are present with the Lord.

1 Thessalonians 4:13 – 18

Those that die in the Lord are with Him and return with Him when we are caught up at the rapture to be together with them and Him to meet the Lord in the air. Not to be confused with the return of Christ to the earth in Revelation 19.

Luke 23:43 is a case in point. The thief on the cross went into Paradise, into the presence of the Lord when he died that day with faith in Christ.

2 Corinthians 12:2 – 4

Paul was caught up into the third heaven called Paradise.

Revelation 2:7

Jesus promises overcomers the right to eat from the Tree of Life, which is in the Paradise of God. The Garden of Eden was a place of fellowship with God.

Luke 16:9 – 31

The story of the rich man and Lazarus; Lazarus was carried by the angels to Abraham's bosom, but the rich man to Hades. Abraham's bosom was a metaphor of the place of honor to the right of the host at a meal. **Matthew 8:11** describes this place as well. Also check **Luke 13:24 – 30**.

Revelation 3:12, 21:1 – 11, 22 – 27, 22:1 – 5

The eternal state of believers; the New Jerusalem within the New Heaven and the New Earth.

1 Corinthians 3:8 – 15, 2 Corinthians 5:10

Rewards are promised for work done in the body by the Holy Spirit.

Rewards are described with permanent brilliance or glory. The resurrected body will not have an "aged" look, but will have a spiritual glorified look. It will look loving, joyful, peaceful, patient, good, gentle, faithful, kind, and self-controlled look.