

## **What Happens When I Die?**

### The God Questions – Part 6

*\*Much of this material has been taken from David Platt's teaching at Secret Church 2013.*

#### **Death Means Separation**

- Spiritual death: The separation of a person from God (Eph. 2:1; Col. 2:13).
- Physical death: The separation of the soul from the physical body (Matt. 10:28).
- Eternal death (second death): The final and eternal separation of a person from God (Rev. 20:6, 21:8).

#### **The Intermediate State**

- The intermediate state refers to the condition of people between their bodily death and their bodily resurrection.
- What happens at the moment of physical death?
  - The souls of believers immediately enter the presence of God (2 Cor. 5:6-8; Phil. 1:23).
  - The souls of unbelievers immediately experience the punishment of God (Luke 16:19-31).
- What about purgatory?
  - The Catholic church teaches that purgatory is the place where believers' souls go to be further purified from sin prior to admission into heaven. Souls in purgatory can be helped in the process of purification by saints on earth.
  - The doctrine of purgatory contradicts Scripture. As has already been shown, there are only two destinations for souls at the point of physical death. Even more importantly, believers are saved by grace, through faith, in Christ and His atoning work (Eph. 2:8-9; Heb. 7:27).
- What about soul sleep?
  - According to some, a person's (or just a believer's) soul sleeps until the resurrection and final judgment.
  - In the Bible, sleep is clearly a metaphor intended to depict the temporary nature of death for Christians (1 Thess. 4:13-18; 1 Cor. 15:20).
  - It is clear in Scripture that believers are not asleep, rather they are worshipping (Rev. 19:1-5), watching (Heb. 12:1), and waiting (Rev. 6:9-11).

## **The Final Judgment**

- Jesus will return and will judge the living and the dead (Matt. 25:31-33; 2 Tim. 4:1).
- God will justify every saint who has trusted in Him (Rom. 8:1-2). Every sin will have been forgiven (Is. 43:25) and rewards will be given for faithfulness (2 Cor. 5:10).
- God will condemn every sinner who had turned from Him (Rev. 20:12-15). Every sin will come to light and there will be varying degrees of punishment (Luke 12:47-48, 20:47).

## **The Horror of Hell**

- Hell was designed for the devil and his angels, and they will be joined by those who refuse to repent and believe in Jesus (Matt. 25:41).
- Hell is a place of ultimate justice (Rom. 12:19; Rev. 20:11-12).
- Hell is a place of fiery agony (Mk. 9:43-48; Rev. 20:15) and conscious torment (Rev. 14:9-10, 20:9-10).
- Hell is a place of outer darkness (Matt. 8:11-12a; 2 Pet. 2:17) and complete separation (Matt. 7:21-23; 2 Thess. 1:9).
- Hell is a place of continual rebellion (Rev. 16:8-11).
- Hell is a place of eternal duration (Dan. 12:2; Matt. 25:46; Jude 6-7; Rev. 20:9-10).

*“If you can witness, unmoved, men and women hurrying down the broad road which leadeth to destruction, then it is seriously to be doubted if you have within you the Spirit of that One who wept over Jerusalem.” –A.W. Pink*

## **The Glory of Heaven**

- Heaven is a place of full reconciliation with God. We will be with Him (Rev. 21:3), we will worship Him (Rev. 22:3), we will reign with Him (Rev. 3:21), and we will rest in Him (Heb. 4:9-11).
- Heaven is a place of final resurrection of our bodies (1 Cor. 15:51-52). We will be completely free from sin and temptation (Rev. 7:13-14, 21:27), we will eat, drink, and sing (Luke 22:28-30; Rev. 7:9-10), we will know God in a clearer way (1 Cor. 13:12), and we will be free from all pain and suffering (Rev. 21:4).
- Heaven is a place of future reunion with the church. We will recognize one another (Matt. 8:11), we will worship together (Rev. 5:13-14), and we will be a people from every nation (Rev. 7:9-10).
- Heaven is a place of complete restoration of creation. It will be a place of visual beauty (Rev. 21:10-11) and natural harmony (Is. 65:25; Rev. 22:3).