

Theme: When people die, their soul continues in conscious existence while awaiting the resurrection of the body on the last day.

I. Intro – Funeral Theology

- A. Man approaches me after funeral
- B. Why did you say he is with God now?
- C. Just said to make people feel better?
- D. What happens when we die?
- E. The thief wanted to make sure what happened!

II. What Happens at Death?

- A. Spirit departs and body ceases to function
 - 1. Body without spirit is dead (James 2:26)
 - 2. Body to dust, spirit to God (Ecc 12:7)
 - 3. Reversal of creation of life (Gen 2:7)
 - 4. Jesus & Stephen (Luke 23:46; Acts 7:59-60)
- B. Physical death – separation of body and soul
 - 1. Physical life created when they were joined
 - 2. Physical death comes when they separate
 - 3. Death is NOT cessation of existence

III. The Intermediate State

- A. The intermediate state of the soul
 - 1. Believer's souls go to be with God immediately
 - a. Luke 23:42-43 – Today – not later!
 - b. Phi 1:21-23 – desire to depart be with Christ
 - c. 2 Cor 5:8 – Away from body is with Lord
 - d. (Matt 17:1-3) – transfiguration – Moses alive!
 - e. Heb 12:23 – spirits made perfect
 - f. Rev 6:9-10 – souls in temple of God
 - g. (Mark 12:18-27) – God of living, not dead!
 - 2. Unbelievers souls are banished from God
 - a. Luke 16:19-31 – Lazarus and rich man
 - b. Certainly not enjoying bliss with God!
- B. Intermediate state of the body – sleep & decay
 - 1. Death often called sleep (1Th 4:13; Acts 7:59-60)
 - 2. Body awakened (Jo 11:11-13; 43-44; Mt 27:51-52 ESV)
 - 3. Body resurrected last day (Jn 6:39; 5:28-29)

IV. Application – Proper Response to Death

- A. Do we see that death will come to all?

1. Everyone will die – we must face this
 2. Must cause us to consider our life
 3. Where do you stand with Christ?
- B. Do we see the Christian hope?
1. Christ has conquers death for us
 2. Our spirits reborn, and will not sleep
 3. We do not fear death – it has no hold
 4. When we die, we are with God
- C. Do we see ultimate hope – resurrection of body?
1. This is the Christian hope
 2. This is what we truly long for
 3. This will be our final state
- D. Do we long for heaven?
1. When Paul considered this, he longed for it
 2. Do we long to be with God?
- E. Communion – strengthening desire for God

Death and the Intermediate State

Luke 23:38-43

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26 As the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without deeds is dead. James 2:26

7 and the dust returns to the ground it came from, and the spirit returns to God who gave it. Ecclesiastes 12:7

the LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being. Genesis 2:7

46 Jesus called out with a loud voice, "Father, into your hands I commit my spirit." When he had said this, he breathed his last. Luke 23:46

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60

21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. 22 If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! 23 I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; Philippians 1:21-23

8 We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8

22 But you have come to Mount Zion, to the heavenly Jerusalem, the city of the living God. You have come to thousands upon thousands of angels in joyful assembly, 23 to the church of the firstborn, whose names are written in heaven. You have come to God, the judge of all men, to the spirits of righteous men made perfect, Hebrews 12:22-23

9 When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. 10 They called out in a loud voice, "How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?" Revelation 6:9-10

13 Brothers, we do not want you to be ignorant about those who fall asleep, or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

59 While they were stoning him, Stephen prayed, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit." 60 Then he fell on his knees and cried out, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." When he had said this, he fell asleep. Acts 7:59-60

11 After he had said this, he went on to tell them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep; but I am going there to wake him up." 12 His disciples replied, "Lord, if he sleeps, he will get better." 13 Jesus had been speaking of his death, but his disciples thought he meant natural sleep. Jn 11:11-13

43 When he had said this, Jesus called in a loud voice, "Lazarus, come out!" 44 The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, "Take off the grave clothes and let him go." John 11:43-44

51 And behold, the curtain of the temple was torn in two, from top to bottom. And the earth shook, and the rocks were split. 52 The tombs also were opened. And many bodies of the saints who had fallen asleep were raised, 53 and coming out of the tombs after his resurrection they went into the holy city and appeared to many. Matthew 27:51-53

39 And this is the will of him who sent me, that I shall lose none of all that he has given me, but raise them up at the last day. John 6:39

28 Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice 29 and come out-- those who have done good will rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. Jn 5:28-29