

II. WHERE AND IN WHAT STATE DOES THE SOUL REMAIN AFTER SEPARATION FROM THE BODY?

The Papists believe that the souls of men, at the time they are separated from their bodies, pass into the fire of purgatory, that they may remain there to be purified from sin, some sooner, and others later. The length of their stay in purgatory depends on how much they loved the material things of this world. The more they loved this world, the longer their souls remain in purgatory and a shorter stay means they didn't love this world that much.

The Scriptures teach, on the contrary, that the blood of Christ purifies our souls in this life from all sin and no fire after death exists with the intent of cleansing us. The Bible also teach that the souls of the faithful, when they die, are not cast into the place of torments, there to be purified by fire, but that they are gathered to Christ in Abraham's bosom.

(Luk 16:22) "Now the poor man died and was carried away by the angels to Abraham's bosom..."

The souls of the wicked are cast into hell,
and the rich man also died and was buried.

(Luk 16:23) "In Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus in his bosom.

from which there is no way of escape.

(Luk 16:26) between us and you there is a great chasm fixed, so that those who wish to come over from here to you will not be able, and that none may cross over from there to us.'

After they depart this life, they will be tormented with hellish agonies

(Luk 16:24) "And he cried out and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus so that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, for I am in agony in this flame.'

They are at the same time reserved for the more intolerable torments of that eternal fire which the wrath of God will kindle in the judgment, which Christ will execute at the end of the world.

The Scriptures in many places speak of the state and condition of the souls of the faithful after death, and there is no passing through purgatory, or any other place, before they come into the presence of the Lord.

Luk 23:46 And Jesus, crying out with a loud voice, said, "Father, INTO YOUR HANDS I COMMIT MY SPIRIT." Having said this, He breathed His last.

Act 7:59 They went on stoning Stephen as he called on the Lord and said, "Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!"

Php 1:23 ... I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;

2Co 5:8 we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

Scriptures are equally clear on the condition of the wicked after death from which there would be no deliverance for them. They are not carried into purgatory, where a way of escape may open itself to them, but they are cast into the unquenchable fire of hell.

Rom 6:23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Mat 10:28 "Do not fear those who kill the body but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.

III. WHAT IS THE RESURRECTION AND WHAT ARE THE ERRORS WHICH ARE NORMALLY RELATED TO IT?

The word resurrection sometimes signifies in Scripture man's conversion, or his resurrection from sin, as we read in

Rev 20:5 The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection.

That this "first resurrection" refers to our resurrection from that eternal death in which we fell at the rebellion of our First Parents, is proven in the following passages of Scripture.

II Corinthians 4:10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body.

Philippians 3:10, 11 I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death ¹¹and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead.

II Timothy 2:11 Here is a trustworthy saying: If we died with him, we will also live with him.

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

I John 3:14 We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love our brothers. Anyone who does not love remains in death.

Revelation 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who have part in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.

But when we refer to our resurrection in this part of the study, we refer to the resurrection of the body meaning the restitution of the substance of our bodies after death. It is the re-animating, or quickening, of the same bodies that we now have with an incorruptible and immortal life by the same immortal soul that we now have. We will have full consciousness as we experience it now, fully expanded to drink in the enormity of our new home.

God will effect this through Christ at the end of the world, by his divine power and virtue, which will result in the eternal glory of the elect, and the eternal punishment of the reprobate.

The resurrection will consist of

1. The restoration of the same body, or the bringing together of the matter which now constitutes our bodies, which is broken down and scattered after death.
2. The reunion of the body with the same soul which it had at first, with which it will also be quickened, and be made immortal.
3. The glorification of the elect, and the eternal banishment of the wicked from the presence of God.

There are three great errors in relation to the doctrine of the resurrection:

1. There are some that deny it altogether and believes that the soul dies with the body. This was the view that the Sadducees entertained. (Acts 23:8)
2. There are others who believe that the soul is immortal, but understand by the resurrection nothing more than regeneration. They deny that the bodies of the saints will rise and that their souls enjoy eternal happiness after death.

The authors of this heresy

“...have wandered away from the truth. They say that the resurrection has already taken place, and they destroy the faith of some. Nevertheless, God's solid foundation stands firm, sealed with this inscription: "The Lord knows those who are his," and, "Everyone who confesses the name of the Lord must turn away from wickedness."” (2Tim 2:18, 19)

3. Others again deny that the very same bodies, which we now have, will rise again, and contend that God will create new bodies at the Second Coming. There is no evidence that we will receive replacement bodies. Instead, the promise of eternal life has been made to every one of us, individually and personally. The names recorded in the book of life refers to individual people who are known and recognized by their names; they will be resurrected and their old bodies renewed and glorified.

It becomes us to believe what Scriptures teach us in relation to this subject, namely, that the dead will most certainly rise again.

IV. FROM WHAT DOES IT APPEAR THAT THERE WILL CERTAINLY BE A FUTURE RESURRECTION?

Philosophers may demonstrate the probability of a resurrection at some future time, but cannot establish the certainty of it, for the knowledge that we derive from philosophy of the justice and truth of God is partial and incomplete.

The reasons which the holy Scriptures cite in support of the doctrine of the resurrection are solid and convincing and it is from

divine revelation alone, that the certainty and truth of a future resurrection is demonstrated.

Job 19:25 - 27 "As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth. ²⁶"Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God; ²⁷Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!

Eze 37:12 "Therefore prophesy and say to them, 'Thus says the Lord GOD, "Behold, I will open your graves and cause you to come up out of your graves, My people; and I will bring you into the land of Israel.

Dan 12:1, 2 "Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued. ²"Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.

Joh 5:28, 29 "Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, ²⁹and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.

Joh 6:40 "For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."

1Co 15:13, 14 But if there is no resurrection of the dead, not even Christ has been raised; ¹⁴and if Christ has not been raised, then our preaching is vain, your faith also is vain.

1Th 4:14, 15 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.

Rev 20:12, 13 And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened; and another

book was opened, which is the book of life; and the dead were judged from the things which were written in the books, according to their deeds. ¹³And the sea gave up the dead which were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead which were in them; and they were judged, every one of them according to their deeds.

To these testimonies, the following may be further considered:

1. About "*...the resurrection of the dead--have you not read what God said to you, 'I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.*" (Matt 22:31, 32) He would not be the God of Abraham, or the living, unless the body should at some time in the future be raised from the dead. God is the God of man as a whole, and not merely a part of his being. If the body, however, should never rise again, He would be the God of only a part of man, the part before the grave. This is what Christ said to the Sadducees.
2. God promises eternal life to the righteous in respect both to the body and the soul. Similarly, the wicked is promised eternal punishment, which in like manner has respect both to the body and the soul. These promises of God must be fulfilled for their certainty is unchangeable. But they will not be fulfilled if the dead do not rise again. Since God effects what He promises, it follows that the dead must necessarily rise.
3. Rewards and punishments extend to the whole man, because the whole man sinned. Therefore, the bodies of all shall rise – the righteous that they may enjoy that glory and felicity which God freely gives, and the wicked that they may endure punishment according to their deeds.
4. The mercy of God is perfect, and extends to the whole man, and desires that we should be wholly saved. Hence, our bodies shall also rise again.
5. The love and mercy of God towards the righteous is constant and unchangeable, so that what He once wills to do for them out of his fatherly love, He wills forever. God wills that the righteous shall be saved both in body and soul; hence, there is a

necessity, that they should be saved in this form, which requires that they should rise again.

6. The perfect justice of God requires that the ungodly be punished according to the form under which they sin. They sin in body and soul at the same time. Hence, it is necessary that their bodies should also rise again, that they may be punished both in body and soul.
7. Christ has risen therefore we shall also rise. This conclusion is proper and forcible, because
 - a) Christ rose so that He may raise us.
 - b) Christ is the head and we are the members. If the Head rises, so shall the members, because the glory of the Head demands that the members be in the same condition with himself. If the members were to remain in a state of corruption, the Head would not, in this case, be glorious. A head without members would not be perfect, and Christ is perfect.
 - c) The same Spirit, who dwells in Christ, dwells also in us. He joins and unites us with Christ, and works the same in us, which He does in Christ, because He is always the same. He raised Christ, therefore, He will also raise us.
8. Scripture teaches us that Christ shall have an everlasting kingdom. He would not have an everlasting kingdom if our bodies were to remain forever under the power of death. It would not be sufficient, in this case, that our souls should be immortal. For the kingdom of Christ to be everlasting, it is necessary that the subjects are eternal in respect to both body and soul from which we may again infer the necessity of the resurrection of the body.
9. Christ is a perfect Savior, because He has saved, and reconciled the whole man to God. Hence, our corrupt bodies will be raised through Christ, and perfected in glory to be like Him.
10. Christ is not less able to save than Adam was able to destroy. He has by his death restored all and more than that which was lost through the sin of Adam. He has merited for us greater

felicity than we should ever have had, if we had not sinned. Adam has lost for us the eternal life and salvation of the body with other gifts. Christ has restored this unto us, from which it may be concluded that our bodies shall without doubt rise again.

11. God published his law to man after the fall. He, therefore, wills that man should at some time observe it. Although it shall not be done in this life, it shall be done in the life to come, so that there must be a resurrection of the dead.
12. The wages of sin is death. When sin is once abolished, death will also be abolished, which will result in the restoration of life.
13. Our bodies were made for this end, that the Holy Spirit might forever dwell in them and that they might be His temples. Hence they shall rise again and live forever.

Next week:

V. WHAT KIND OF BODIES SHALL RISE IN THE RESURRECTION?