

Heaven and the Resurrection

Sunday, June 2nd, 2024

Lesson: Heaven is not the final state of the Christian's soul. The souls and bodies of all people will be reunited through the Resurrection at the Last Day when Jesus returns. The unrighteous will receive the second death in the lake of fire and the righteous will receive eternal life in the new heavens and earth. The final state of the Christian soul is with its glorified body in the new creation where we will live in righteous relationship with God both physically and spiritually.

Heaven

- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (ESV): "Heaven" appears 398 times.
- How does the Bible use the word "heaven?"

1. _____

- Genesis 1:1
- Psalm 121:2
- Mark 13:31
- Psalm 69:34
- Psalm 146:6
- Revelation 21:1-2
- Isaiah 65:17

2. _____

- Ezra 7:23
- Acts 1:11
- Lamentations 3:50
- Luke 22:43
- Psalm 33:33 ¹³
- Psalm 115:3
- Job 16:19
- 1 Peter 3:22
- ~~Luke 23:43~~

What is the intermediate state?

This portion of text is quoted from Franz Pieper's *Christian Dogmatics Vol. 3*:

The State of Souls Between Death and Resurrection

Holy Writ reveals but little of the state of the souls between death and the resurrection. In speaking of last things, it directs our gaze primarily to Judgement Day and the events clustering around it. With their coming to faith, the blessedness of the Corinthians was complete except for the bliss awaiting them at "the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ" on Judgement Day (1 Cor. 1:7). And with Paul and the Philippians and all Christians confess: "We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall change our vile body" (Phil. 3:20-21). See also Col. 3:4; 1 Thess. 4:13 ff.; 2 Tim. 4:7-9; Titus 2:13. Great significance the Day of Judgement and its sequels have also for unbelievers. They "shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power when He shall come (2 Thess. 1:9-10). But what meanwhile becomes of the soul? What is the state of the souls between death and the resurrection?

Of the souls of the unbelievers Scripture declares that they are kept, "in prison," a place of punishment (1 Pet. 3:19-20). Of the souls of the believers we are told not merely in general that they are in God's hand (Acts 7:59; Luke 23:46), but also in particular that they dwell with Christ and in Paradise, Phil. 1:23; "I have a desire to depart and to be with Christ; which is far better (Luke 23:43).

(Pieper, *Christian Dogmatics Vol. 3*, p. 511-12)

The Resurrection

- Strong's Exhaustive Concordance (ESV): "Resurrection" appears 40 times.
- Isaiah 25:8-12
- John 14:2-4
- Revelation 21:4-8
- Ezekiel 28:24-26
- Matthew 22:29-33
- John 5:29
- 1 Corinthians 15:13
- John 11:24-25
- 1 Corinthians 15:42
- Acts 24:15
- Acts 23:6