



## **The Doctrine of End Times and Last Days**

### **The Afterlife for a believer or what happens when I die?**

#### **I. Either we are alive when Jesus comes back or we die and go to be with the Lord**

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers *and sisters*, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as indeed the rest of *mankind do*, who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For if we believe that Jesus died and rose *from the dead*, so also God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep through Jesus. <sup>15</sup> For we say this 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. <sup>16</sup> For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who remain, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. <sup>18</sup> Therefore, comfort one another with these words.

## 2 Corinthians 5:1-8

For we know that if our earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made by hands, eternal in the heavens. <sup>2</sup> For indeed, in this *tent* we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, <sup>3</sup> since in fact after putting it on, we will not be found naked. <sup>4</sup> For indeed, we who are in this tent groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. <sup>5</sup> Now He who prepared us for this very *purpose* is God, who gave us the Spirit as a pledge. <sup>6</sup> Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— <sup>7</sup> for we walk by faith, not by sight— <sup>8</sup> but we are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.

- A. If we are alive when Jesus comes back then we will be caught up to be with Him
- B. When we die, we immediately go into the presence of the Lord
- C. When the Lord returns we will receive a new resurrection body

## Philippians 3:20-21

<sup>20</sup> For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; <sup>21</sup> who will transform the body of our lowly condition into conformity with His glorious body, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.

## 1 Corinthians 15

<sup>42</sup> So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable *body*; <sup>43</sup> it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; <sup>44</sup> it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*. <sup>45</sup> So also it is written: "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING PERSON." The last Adam *was* a life-giving spirit. <sup>46</sup> However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. <sup>47</sup> The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. <sup>48</sup> As is the earthy one, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly one, so also are those who are heavenly. <sup>49</sup> Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also

bear the image of the heavenly.<sup>50</sup> Now I say this, brothers *and sisters*, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Behold, I am telling you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, <sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. <sup>53</sup> For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> But when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written: “DEATH HAS BEEN SWALLOWED UP in victory.

## **II. Believers will be rewarded for their faithful service at the Judgment Seat of Christ**

1 Corinthians 3:10-15

<sup>10</sup> By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as a wise builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should build with care. <sup>11</sup> For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ. <sup>12</sup> If anyone builds on this foundation using gold, silver, costly stones, wood, hay or straw, <sup>13</sup> their work will be shown for what it is, because the Day will bring it to light. It will be revealed with fire, and the fire will test the quality of each person’s work. <sup>14</sup> If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. <sup>15</sup> If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames.

### **A. Jesus is the only foundation for eternal life**

1 John 5:11-13; Romans 10:9

### **B. We build on the foundation of Jesus with the Christian life we live**

Colossians 2:6-7; Philippians 2:12-13; Matthew 7:12-27

**C. We can build our lives with worldly values and actions or with eternal values and God-glorifying actions**

Galatians 5:16-25; Matthew 6:19-33; 2 Corinthians 4:13-5:9

**D. When we meet Jesus at the Bema He will test the quality of our lives and reward what passes the test**

1 Corinthians 3:12-15; Luke 19:11-27; 2 Timothy 4:8

1D. What quality will Jesus test?

**E. Some will receive great reward and others little but the foundation of Christ guarantees salvation**

1E. What kind of rewards will Jesus give?

**III. Believers will participate in the Marriage Supper of the Lamb**

Revelation 19

<sup>7</sup> Let's rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, because the marriage of the Lamb has come, and His bride has prepared herself." <sup>8</sup> It was given to her to clothe herself in fine linen, bright *and* clean; for the fine linen is the righteous acts of the saints.<sup>9</sup> Then he \*said to me, "Write: 'Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.'" And he \*said to me, "These are the true words of God." <sup>10</sup> Then I fell at his feet to worship him. But he \*said to me, "Do not do that; I am a fellow servant of yours and your brothers *and* sisters who hold the testimony of Jesus; worship God! For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy."

- A. This is patterned after the Jewish custom of betrothal and marriage
- B. The Church is the bride of Christ pictured as being married to the Lamb
- C. Symbolizes the blessedness of our union with Jesus for all eternity

#### **IV. Believers will reign with Christ in the Millennium**

Matthew 19:27-30

<sup>27</sup> Then Peter responded and said to Him, “Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?” <sup>28</sup> And Jesus said to them, “Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. <sup>29</sup> And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms on account of My name, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life. <sup>30</sup> But many *who are* first will be last; and *the* last, first.

Revelation 20:1-6

Then I saw an angel coming down from heaven, holding the key of the abyss and a great chain in his hand. <sup>2</sup> And he took hold of the dragon, the serpent of old, who is the devil and Satan, and bound him for a thousand years; <sup>3</sup> and he threw him into the abyss and shut *it* and sealed *it* over him, so that he would not deceive the nations any longer, until the thousand years were completed; after these things he must be released for a short time.<sup>4</sup> Then I saw thrones, and they sat on them, and judgment was given to them. And *I* saw the souls of those who had been beheaded because of their testimony of Jesus and because of the word of God, and those who had not worshiped the beast or his image, and had not received the mark on their foreheads and on their hands; and they came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years. <sup>5</sup> The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were completed. This is the first resurrection. <sup>6</sup> Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection; over these the second death has no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ, and will reign with Him for a thousand years.’

## **How does this apply to my life?**

1. Live now preparing for eternity
2. Live with hope and expectation
3. Comfort one another with these words