



## 2: Hereafter

### What really happens AFTER someone dies?

Some say 'That's all folks.' Others think people are reincarnated until they get it right. Still others believe in 'soul sleep'.

Today we discover what the Scriptures say.

**To live is Christ** means we live with purpose & passion, to honor Him with our actions, thoughts, attitude, relationships, & stuff. So, **until we die we won't be done.**

But what REALLY happens when someone dies?

- Some say we simply **cease to exist**.
- Some believe in **reincarnation**.
- Some believe in '**soul sleep**' - the body & soul are in pause-mode until Jesus returns.

### What do the Scriptures say?

#### **Philippians 1:21-24** (NET)

<sup>21</sup> For to me, living is Christ and **dying is gain**. <sup>22</sup> Now if I am to go on living in the body, this will mean productive work for me, yet I don't know which I prefer.<sup>23</sup> I feel torn between the two, because **I have a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far,** <sup>24</sup> but it is more vital for your sake that I remain in the body.

### **BIG TRUTH: HEREAFTER is NOT about WHERE we go, but WHO we go to!**

If you don't love the KING right HERE, you won't love the kingdom in the HEREAFTER.

Paul desired, **to be with Christ.**

- The Scriptures teach upon death, there is an **immediate address change of the soul.**

#### **Luke 16:22-23** (ESV)

<sup>22</sup> The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, <sup>23</sup> and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.

**Word of warning:** Jesus said there really is a place of eternal punishment. Have you considered the rest of what Jesus taught?

- Remember too when **Jesus was transfigured** on the mountain the apostles saw Moses & Elijah, who had lived hundreds of years before.

#### **Mark 9:2-4** (ESV)

<sup>2</sup> And after six days Jesus took with him Peter and James and John, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, <sup>3</sup> and his clothes became radiant, intensely white, as no one on earth could bleach them. <sup>4</sup> And there appeared to them **Elijah with Moses**, and they were talking with Jesus.

- Also, remember what **Jesus said to the criminal on the cross** next to him,

**Luke 23:43** (NET)

<sup>43</sup> And Jesus said to him, “I tell you the truth, **today you will be with me in paradise.**”

**What happened to Jesus when He died?** Not only did He tell the criminal they would be together in paradise, but Jesus says these words:

**Luke 23:46** (NET)

<sup>46</sup> Then Jesus, calling out with a loud voice, said, “Father, **into your hands I commit my spirit!**” And after he said this he breathed his last.

**Body Dies → Spirit to Heaven → Spirit & Body Reunited in Resurrection**

### **Return, Resurrection, & Transformation**

**1 Thessalonians 4:13–14** (ESV)

<sup>13</sup> But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. <sup>14</sup> For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

☀ **Ben Witherington** writes:

*“In Christ death is no more harmful or permanent than sleep.”<sup>1</sup>*

**1 Thessalonians 4:15-18** (ESV)

<sup>15</sup> For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left 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 cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And **the dead in Christ will rise first.** <sup>17</sup> Then we who are alive, who are left, 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 encourage one another with these words.

**BIG TRUTH: HEREAFTER is NOT about WHERE we go, but WHO we go to!**

<sup>1</sup> Ben Witherington III, *Conflict and Community in Corinth: A Socio-Rhetorical Commentary on 1 and 2 Corinthians* (Grand Rapids, MI: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., 1995), 310.

## Dive Deeper

### **1 Corinthians 15:50–58** (NET)

<sup>50</sup> Now this is what I am saying, brothers and sisters: Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. <sup>51</sup> Listen, I will tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed—<sup>52</sup> in a moment, in the blinking 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 body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. <sup>54</sup> Now when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the saying that is written will happen, ***“Death has been swallowed up in victory.”*** [from Is. 25:8] <sup>55</sup> ***“Where, O death, is your victory? Where, O death, is your sting?”*** [from Hos.13:14] <sup>56</sup> The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law. <sup>57</sup> But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ! <sup>58</sup> So then, dear brothers and sisters, be firm. Do not be moved! Always be outstanding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labor is not in vain in the Lord.

🌟 **Only one life will soon be past, only what's done for Christ will last.**

## Our Ambition

### **2 Corinthians 5:8–9** (NET)

<sup>8</sup> Thus we are full of courage and would **prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord**. <sup>9</sup> So then **whether we are alive or away, we make it our ambition to please him**.

**BIG TRUTH: HEREAFTER is NOT about WHERE we go, but WHO we go to!**

Have you made it YOUR ambition to please Jesus?