

Soteriowhat?

Before Conversion	During Conversion	After Conversion
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common grace • Election and Reprobation • The Gospel Call and Effective Calling 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regeneration • Conversion • Justification • Adoption • Baptism in and Filling With the Holy Spirit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sanctification • Perseverance of the Saints • Death and the Intermediate State • Glorification • Union with Christ

Introduction

Are you afraid of death?

Mr Insensitive is here to bring glad tidings – Death is your friend (kind of)

Like Pneumonia – called the ‘old man’s friend’ / ‘friend of the elderly’

Yes, I am one of those “wierdo’s” that Bill spoke of...

I love Weddings “BUT” I also love FUNERALS

What’s the first question that comes to your mind when you hear that someone has died and you don’t know them very well or not at all?

You wonder if he/she was a Christian? Right???

It’s a huge difference – one brings comfort – the other brings sorrow

Does anyone know these names:

Rachel Joy Scott / Val Schnur / Cassie Bernall

3 girls killed at Columbine High School

To us, these should be 3 very encouraging & celebrated names in our time!

Why? They were reportedly killed for confessing their faith...

Death is no longer an enemy that believers need to fear

We exist by faith in the reality of the works of Christ and in the power of God:

Death is but a tool in the hands of Almighty God!

Note: Scripture in this lesson is taken from the NASB

Death and the Intermediate State

Grudem: What is the purpose of death in the Christian life?

Why do Christians die?

A. It is not to pay the wages of our sin

Most would answer – b/c the wages of sin is death / we are sinners / therefore...

Romans 6:23: For the wages of sin is death...

But wait... not all Christians are going to die...

1Ths. 4:16–17 **16** 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 shall rise first. **17** Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and thus we shall always be with the Lord.

Jesus paid the price for my sin – death is no longer MY debt to pay

Rom. 8:1 There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus.

Reminds me of another question – Why do people go to hell / the lake of fire?

Most would answer – b/c they are sinners against a Holy God...

I'm a sinner and I'm not going to hell / the lake of fire

Why am I not going to hell / the lake of fire?

B/C I belong to HIM!

He has saved me from the lake of fire...

John 3:16 “For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life.

Rev. 21:27 and nothing unclean and no one who practices abomination and lying, shall ever come into it [New Jerusalem], but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's book of life.

Why are the other sinners going to hell / the lake of fire?

B/C they **do not** belong to HIM!

He **has not** saved them from the lake of fire...

Rev. 20:15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.

Why do Christians die? Why do people get thrown into the lake of fire?

Questions like these must only be answered inside the glorious works of Christ

Eph. 2:4-10 4 But God, being rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, 5 even when we were dead in our transgressions, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), 6 and raised us up with Him, and seated us with Him in the heavenly {places} , in Christ Jesus, 7 in order that in the ages to come He might show the surpassing riches of His grace in kindness toward us in Christ Jesus. 8 For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, {it is} the gift of God; 9 not as a result of works, that no one should boast. 10 For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them.

It is He Who has destroyed the works of the devil

1John 3:8 ...The Son of God appeared for this purpose, that He might destroy the works of the devil.

It is He Who has overcome death and will abolish it

1Cor. 15:25-26 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.

And we need no longer fear sin - death - the grave - the lake of fire

Believers can shout aloud with all confidence and with all boldness:

1Cor. 15:55-57 55 "O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?" 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

B. To be set free from this sinful body of flesh

We need to be SET FREE from the body of this death -

Romans 7:23-25 23 but I see a different law in the members of my body, waging war against the law of my mind, and making me a prisoner of the law of sin which is in my members. 24 Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death? 25 Thanks be to God through Jesus Christ our Lord! ...

We need to be rid of this perishable body and be prepared to inherit the kingdom

1Cor 15:50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.

C. To witness & to remember

Consider Freeman Powell – need I say more...

A Godly man who welcomed death – why?

He believed Christ died and has been raised – first fruits of many brethren...

1Cor. 15:20–22 **20** But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. **21** For since by a man {came} death, by a man also {came} the resurrection of the dead. **22** For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive.

D. To be changed & prepared for our new life / true life

Except a seed fall to the earth

1Cor. 15:35–38 **35** But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” **36** You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; **37** and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. **38** But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.

1Cor. 15:42–44 **42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable {body} , it is raised an imperishable {body} ; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual {body}.

We cannot “come to life” unless we die and are then raised “a spiritual body”

Grudem: What happens to our bodies and souls when we die?

What happens when Christians die?

A. Their body returns to ground – their soul returns to God

Ecc. 12:6 **6** {Remember Him} before the silver cord is broken and the golden bowl is crushed, the pitcher by the well is shattered and the wheel at the cistern

is crushed; **7** then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.

B. They become absent from the body – they become present with the Lord

They “slip the surly bonds of earth” – read High Flight by John Magee

2Cor. 5:6 **6** Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord — **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight — **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.

C. Is there a purgatory?

NO – and Heaven is NOT for Real (in the way it has been portrayed)

D. They await the resurrection

Rev. 6:9–11 **9** And when He broke the fifth seal, I saw underneath the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained; **10** and they cried out with a loud voice, saying, “How long, O Lord, holy and true, wilt Thou refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth?” **11** And there was given to each of them a white robe; and they were told that they should rest for a little while longer, until {the number of} their fellow servants and their brethren who were to be killed even as they had been, should be completed also.

Martyrs – (Rachel Joy Scott / Val Schnur / Cassie Bernall) – wait under the altar

Non-martyrs – wait in comfort

Luke 16:20–25 **20** “And a certain poor man named Lazarus was laid at his gate, covered with sores, **21** and longing to be fed with the {crumbs} which were falling from the rich man’s table; besides, even the dogs were coming and licking his sores. **22** “Now it came about that the poor man died and he was carried away by the angels to Abraham’s bosom; and the rich man also died and was buried. **23** “And in Hades he lifted up his eyes, being in torment, and saw Abraham far away, and Lazarus in his bosom. **24** “And he cried out and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus, that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue; for I am in agony in this flame.’ **25** “But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that during your life you

received your good things, and likewise Lazarus bad things; but now he is being comforted here, and you are in agony.

E. In Bill's honor – the time/dimension factor (extra credit consideration)

We live in space & time as God allows us to know and understand it
When we shed this flesh suit – we become spiritual beings “only”
When we shed this set of dimensions – we become eternal beings
“completely”

We can't conceive of an existence “outside of time”

We can't conceive of past / present / future – all existing
simultaneously

It's like playing 3 dimensional chess – with like 100 dimensions

IT's OK if we don't understand it all – just hang on for the ride!
(persevere)

Scripture Memory Passage

1Cor. 15:55–57 55 “O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” 56 The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; 57 but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Glorification

Grudem: When will we receive our resurrection bodies? What will they be like?

When?

A. On / in / at – the last day

When it's done / over / finished –

John 6:37–40 37 “All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out. 38 “For I have come down from heaven, not to do My own will, but the will of Him who sent Me. 39 “And this is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day. 40 “For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

When it's time and in it's time – each in his own order

1Cor. 15:22–28 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all shall be made alive. 23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, 24 then {comes} the end, when He delivers up the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power. 25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet. 26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death. 27 For HE HAS PUT ALL THINGS IN SUBJECTION UNDER HIS FEET. But when He says, "All things are put in subjection," it is evident that He is excepted who put all things in subjection to Him. 28 And when all things are subjected to Him, then the Son Himself also will be subjected to the One who subjected all things to Him, that God may be all in all.

What will they be like?

B. They will be like Jesus

We will be like Him for we shall see Him as He is (with a promise)

1John 3:2–3 2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we shall be. We know that, when He appears, we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope {fixed} on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.

Interesting implications:

Walk thru walls

John 20:19 When therefore it was evening, on that day, the first {day} of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst, and said to them, "Peace {be} with you."

Vanish instantly

Luke 24:30–31 30 And it came about that when He had reclined {at the table} with them, He took the bread and blessed {it,} and breaking {it,} He {began} giving {it} to them. 31 And their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

Cloaking device (Klingon Bird of Prey)

Luke 24:15–16,32 15 And it came about that while they were conversing and discussing, Jesus Himself approached, and {began} traveling with them. 16 But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him. ...32 And they said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

We will bear the image of heavenly

1Cor. 15:42-49 **42** So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable {body} , it is raised an imperishable {body} ; **43** it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; **44** it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual {body.} **45** So also it is written, “The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL.” The last Adam {became} a life-giving spirit. **46** However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual. **47** The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven. **48** As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly. **49** And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

So much to say—so little time—meet for further discussion in coffee area

Scripture Memory Passage

1Cor. 15:49 And just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly.

Scripture Meditation Passage

1Corinthians 15