

## **What happens after death?**

When a born-again believer in Jesus Christ dies, his / her soul and spirit are immediately taken to Heaven, because his / her sins are forgiven by having received Christ as Saviour. (John 3:16, 18, 36) For believers, death is to be “away from the body and at home with the Lord.” (2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23) However, passages such as 1 Corinthians 15:50-54 and 1 Thessalonians 4:13-17 describe believers being resurrected at the Rapture and given glorified bodies. So, if believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, what is the purpose of this resurrection? While the souls and spirits of believers go to be with Christ immediately after death, the physical body remains in the grave “sleeping”. At the resurrection of believers, the physical body will be resurrected, glorified, and then reunited with the soul and spirit. This reunited and glorified body-soul-spirit will be the possession of believers for all eternity in the new Heavens and new Earth. (Revelation 21-22)

For those who do not receive Jesus Christ as Saviour, death means everlasting punishment. Luke 16:22-23 describes a rich man being tormented immediately after death. He cried out, “I am in agony in this fire.” (Luke 16:24) Revelation 20:11-15 describes all the unbelieving dead being resurrected, judged at the Great White Throne Judgment, and then being cast into the Lake Of Fire. Unbelievers, then, are not sent to Hell immediately after death, but rather are in a temporary realm of judgment and condemnation.

Ultimately then, at the final Resurrection, believers will be granted entrance into the new Heavens and new Earth for all eternity, whilst unbelievers will be sent to the Lake Of Fire for all eternity.

\*\*\*\*\*