

THE ETERNAL STATE

We believe in the bodily resurrection of all men: the saved to eternal life (Dwelling in Heaven with the Lord); and the unsaved to judgment and everlasting punishment (Separated from God forever in Hell).

Matt. 25:46: *"Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life."*

John 5:28-29: *"Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.*

John 11:25-26: *Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die;²⁶ and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?"*

Revelation 20:5-6, 12-13: *The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended.) This is the first resurrection. ⁶Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. The second death has no power over them, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him for a thousand years.... And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done.*

We believe that the souls of the redeemed are, at death, absent from the body and present with the Lord.

Luke 23:43: *"But the other criminal rebuked him. "Don't you fear God," he said, "since you are under the same sentence? ⁴¹We are punished justly, for we are getting what our deeds deserve. But this man has done nothing wrong." ⁴²Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."⁴³ Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with me in paradise."*

II Corinthians 5:8: *We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.*

I Thessalonians 4:16-17: *For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷After that, we who are still alive and are left will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And so we will be with the Lord forever.*

Philippians 1:23; 3:21; Revelation 20:4-6

We believe that the souls of the unbelievers will, after death, suffer everlasting conscious punishment. Mt. 25:41-46; Mk. 9:43-48; Lk. 16:19-26; II Thess. 1:7-9; Jude 6-7.

Revelation 20:11-15: *Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. The earth and the heavens fled from his presence, and there was no place for them. ¹²And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life. The dead were judged according to what they had done as recorded in the books. ¹³The sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them, and each person was judged according to what they had done. ¹⁴Then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. ¹⁵Anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire.*