

WCF XXXII: Of the State of Men after Death, and the Resurrection of the Dead

Warm-Up Question:

What feelings come to mind when you think of living forever?

READ: John 3:16-18, 36

I. THE RETURN: THE RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

- ▶ Read WCF 32.1 (see in blue) and John 5:28-29. Describe what happens to both Christians and non-Christians between the time of our death and when Jesus comes back?
- ▶ Read WCF 32.2,3, 1 Thes. 4:16-17, Phil. 3:20-21 and 1 Cor. 15:20-23. Describe what will happen to both after Jesus comes back?
- ▶ Knowing that we will live forever and these things will happen, discuss how this should affect a few of the following:
 1. Our fear of dying?
 2. Living with purpose in life?
 3. Retirement?
 4. Spending/giving?
 5. Suffering? (Rom. 8:18)
 6. Our fear of missing out on things here?

II. THE RETURN: THE FINAL JUDGEMENT

- ▶ Read WCF 33.1, Matt. 25:31-32, Acts 17:30-31. Who will be judged and what will judgment look like?
- ▶ Why should we be thankful for a God of justice and for judgment? What would your judgment look like if judged by your good/bad works? Read Matt. 12:36 for one way to evaluate this.
- ▶ What is your only hope in judgement?
- ▶ Read Rom. 5:6-10; Eph. 2:18; 1 Thes. 1:10, 5:9. How will Christ be our defender and advocate in judgment?
- ▶ How does all this make you want to live differently?

WCF 32: Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead

1. The bodies of people return to dust after death and see corruption, but their souls, which neither die nor sleep, having an immortal existence, immediately return to God who gave them. The souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. The souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved for the judgment of the great day. The Scriptures acknowledge no other places besides these two for souls separated from their bodies.

2. At the last day, those people who are alive will not die, but will be changed. All the dead will be raised up with their same bodies and no other body (although their bodies will have different qualities), and their bodies will be united again to their souls forever.

3. The bodies of the unjust shall be raised to dishonor by the power of Christ. The bodies of the just will be conformed to his own glorious body by his Spirit, for honor.

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