

What Happens After I Die?

• September 1 | David B. Chadwick

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What is your earliest memory of contemplating death?

Memento Mori - *Latin*: "Remember You Must Die" or "Remember That You Are Mortal"

We are living in a generation that is trying to forget death:

- Memorial Parks Instead of Cemeteries
- Passed Away Instead of Died
- Video Games
- Television and Movies
- Halloween
- Why? *For reasons we will talk about later...*

What Happens After You Die?

The truth is that you don't really die. Your physical body ceases to exist, but your soul lives on

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

1 For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. **2** For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, **3** if indeed

by putting it on[a] we may not be found naked. **4** For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. **5** He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee. **6** So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, **7** for we walk by faith, not by sight. **8** Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **9** So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. **10** For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.

What you believe about eternity, will determine how you live today.

1. If you believe that you are an accident and that there is no God or eternity - you are going to live a selfish life looking for the pleasure of now.
2. If you believe you were created by a God and for his glory, and there is an eternity - it will shape how you live.

Background on Death

1. The Bible teaches that death is an enemy of man and God
2. This enemy is going to be destroyed forever

1 Corinthians 15:26

15 *The last enemy to be destroyed is death.*

3. This enemy of death has already been defeated

1 Corinthians 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.*

What happens when you die?

1. Our physical bodies die:

- **Hebrew 9:27-28**

27 And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment, 28 so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him.

- We are all going to die

2. When we die, our souls separate from our physical bodies.

- **Matthew 10:28**

28 And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.

- **Near Death Experience** - A Near-Death Experience (NDE) is a profound psychological event that often occurs when a person is close to death or in a situation where death seems imminent, such as during a severe illness, cardiac arrest, or accident. NDEs can also happen during periods of clinical death when the heart has stopped, and the brain is deprived of oxygen, though the person is later revived.

NDE STUDY:

Common Themes: Heaven (Percent Reported)

Out-of-body experiences (75.4%)
A sense of peace and love (76.2%)
Meeting with loved ones (57.3%)
A presence of light or a "Being of Light" (64.6%)

Common Themes (Hell)

Darkness and Isolation
Torment and Pain

Other Lost Souls
Demonic Beings
Feelings of Desperation
Flames and Heat

3. We will all face judgment.

- **Great White Throne Judgment**

Revelation 20:11-12

11 Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence the earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. 12 And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.

Revelation 21:27

Those who believe have their names written in the book of life

Matthew 7:21-23

21 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?' 23 And then will I declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.'

- **Judgment Seat of Christ** (comes from the Greek word Bēma)

What could you be rewarded for?

- How you treated those on the margins, the outcasts
- The purity of your motives
- The words you chose to speak

- How you used the gifts and resources you were given
- Leading others to Christ

Imagine the moment your heart beats for the last time, and you are standing in front of Jesus...

- You served children at church with love
- You fostered a child in need of a family
- You prayed without ceasing
- You stood up for truth in your workplace
- You were a light at your school to your friends and classmates
- You cared for your aging parents with compassion
- You gave generously, even in times of scarcity
- You brought unbelievers to Christ

Wisdom from Solomon on Life

- Meaningless! All is vanity!
- Hebrew word is Hebel: Vapor

James 4:14

14 yet you do not know what tomorrow will bring. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes.

Ecclesiastes 7

2 It is better to go to the house of mourning than to go to the house of feasting, for this is the end of all mankind, and the living will lay it to heart.

- Hebrew word for better - Tov: "good"

Ecclesiastes 12:13-14

13 The end of the matter; all has been heard. Fear God and keep his commandments, for this is the whole duty of man] 14 For God will bring every deed into judgment, with every secret thing, whether good or evil.

When it comes to living for eternity, how are you living?

If I were the devil, what would my strategy be? I would try to convince you that there is no judgment or even hell.

The pull of this world is so strong. One day, your heart will beat for the last time. At the time, there will be no do-overs.

CUT THE ROOTS OFF. THE THINGS THAT DO NOT LAST AND DO NOT MATTER.