

# Message Notes

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**What Happens When We Die?**  
Heaven Series, part 8  
I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11  
May 15, 2005

# Message Outline

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**What Happens When We Die?**  
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## A. What Happens When We Die?

1. Our bodies "sleep" (I Thes. 4:13). The souls of believers join Christ in Paradise. (Lk. 23:43, 2 Cor. 5:8, Phil. 1:23) The souls of unbelievers enter "Hades" or hell. (Lk. 16:19-31)
2. Believers enjoy the Lord's presence in the "intermediate state", eagerly awaiting the resurrection of our bodies and the physical reign of Christ on the earth. (I Thes. 4:14-15, Heb. 12:23)
3. Believers will join Christ at His return and will be reunited with our resurrected bodies and to those believers who are alive at Christ's return. (I Thes. 4:16-17, I Cor. 15:23)
4. We will rule with Christ on the old earth during the millennium, at the end of which Satan will be loosed then finally defeated. (I Cor. 15:25, Rev. 20:4-10) (\*\*Biblical Christians hold differing views here!)
5. The unbelieving dead will be bodily raised and all will be judged by Christ, according to their works, before the great white throne. (Rev. 20:11-15, John 5:25-30).
6. God through Christ will destroy and cleanse the earth with fire, effectively recreating it and making all things new. (2 Pt. 3:5-13, Rom. 8:19-22, Rev. 21:1)
7. The New Jerusalem will come down to the New Earth, heaven and earth will be united, and God will make his dwelling place among men where we will glorify and enjoy Him forever. (Rev. 21:2-22:5, Is. 65:17-25)

## B. How Will We Die?

For the Christian to live is Christ, to die is GAIN! (Phil. 1:21)

Therefore. . .

1. Death is the final step of our sanctification.
2. Hope triumphs over fear. (I Thes. 4:13, 5:8)
3. Faithfulness trumps preservation. (I Thes. 5:5-10)
4. We are to comfort, encourage and build up one another. (I Thes. 4:18, 5:11).

## ***Growth Group Understanding Questions***

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### ***What Happens When We Die?***

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*May 15, 2005*

1. Read I Thessalonians 4:13 – 5:11 again. In 4:13, why does Paul write these words? In 4:18, what are we supposed to do with what Paul tells us?
2. Read through the list in the outline of the 7 things that happen when we die. What ideas were unclear to you? Look up the passages under those points? What ideas are new for you?
3. What is the “intermediate state”? Why is this term used? How does 1 Thessalonians indicate an “intermediate state”? What do we learn about it here? What is the experiential difference between the intermediate state and the eternal state?
4. Compare I Corinthians 15:20-58 and I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11. What’s the big deal about the “resurrection” of our bodies? What are the implications of the resurrection?
5. What does I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11 teach us about how we should die? Does 4:13 say we shouldn’t grieve? If not, what does it say?

## ***Growth Group Application Questions***

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### ***What Happens When We Die?***

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1. What was the most encouraging or challenging thing about our message/text this week? What was new?
2. Discuss how folks in our culture deal with death. Where did cemeteries used to be located? Where are they located now? What does this relocation indicate about the view of death in our own day?
3. In I Thessalonians 4:13-5:11, how is Paul giving us very “practical theology?” What difference does or should the Gospel make in our dying? How can “hope triumph over fear”?
4. Share your own feelings and thoughts about death. Are you afraid of death? Have you thought about how “well” you will die? Share an experience of the death of a loved one. How did they die?
5. For a Christian, why is dying “GAIN” according to Philippians 1:21-23? Why is faithfulness to God more important than preserving our own lives at all costs?
6. How can we comfort, encourage and build up one another in the dying process? How can we help each other prepare for our own inevitable deaths? What does this practically look like?