

# *The Ordo Salutis*

## The Order of Salvation

### Step 12- Death and the Intermediate State

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As of 06/12/22

*“They, then, who are destined to die, need not be careful to inquire what death they are to die, but into what place death will usher them.” Augustine*

*“For death is no more than a turning of us over from time to eternity” William Penn*

*“Take care of your life and the Lord will take care of your death” George Whitefield*

*“We'll say ‘good night’ here and ‘good morning’ up there.” John Rice*

*“Death to the Christian is the funeral of all his sorrows and evils, and the resurrection, of all his joys.” James Aughy*

*“How strange this fear of death is! We are never frightened at a sunset.” George MacDonald*

*“We cannot enjoy peace in this world unless we are ready to yield to the will of God in respect of death. Our times are in His hand, at His sovereign disposal. We must accept that as best.” John Owen*

*“Never fear dying, beloved. Dying is the last, but the least matter that a Christian has to be anxious about. Fear living - that is a hard battle to fight, a stern discipline to endure, a rough voyage to undergo.” Charles Spurgeon*

*“The Jews (in the Wilderness) looked upon a serpent to be freed from serpents; and we look upon the death of Christ to be delivered from death.” Augustine*

*“Death is no more than passing from one room into another. But there's a difference for me, you know. Because in that other room I shall be able to see.” Helen Keller*

*“I don't so much pray that my death will be without pain, but that it will be without doubt.” John Piper*

*“I am not tired of my work, neither am I tired of the world; yet, when Christ calls me home, I shall go with gladness.” Adoniram Judson*

*“ It is grace at the beginning, and grace at the end. So that when you and I come to lie upon our death beds, the one thing that should comfort and help and strengthen us there is the thing that*

*helped us in the beginning. Not what we have been, not what we have done, but the Grace of God in Jesus Christ our Lord. The Christian life starts with grace, it must continue with grace, it ends with grace. Grace wondrous grace. By the grace of God I am what I am. Yet not I, but the Grace of God which was with me.*” Martyn Lloyd- Jones

*“As I go into a cemetery I like to think of the time when the dead shall rise from their graves. ... Thank God, our friends are not buried; they are only sown!”* Dwight L. Moody

*“At the place of execution, he again said a short prayer and then climbed the steps to the gallows, brave and composed. His death ensued after a few seconds. In almost fifty years that I worked as a doctor, I have hardly ever seen a man die so entirely submissive to the will of God”* Dietrich Bonhoeffer

*“Every man must do two things alone; he must do his own believing and his own dying.”* Martin Luther

*“Six feet by two-and-a-half is all the ground that the richest man in England will shortly occupy.”* William Tiptaft

*“Let your hope of heaven master your fear of death.”* William Gurnall

*“We are convinced that all of our race who die in infancy partake in the redemption wrought out by our Lord Jesus. Whatever some may think, we believe that the whole spirit and tone of the Word of God, as well as the nature of God Himself, lead us to believe that all who leave this world as babes are saved.”* Charles Spurgeon

*“No one can obtain from the Pope a dispensation for never dying.”* Thomas a Kempis

*“A human being does not cease to exist at death. It is change, not destruction, which takes place.”* Florence Nightingale

*“Someday you will read in the papers that D.L. Moody of East Northfield, is dead. Don't you believe a word of it! At that moment I shall be more alive than I am now; I shall have gone up higher, that is all, out of this old clay tenement into a house that is immortal- a body that death cannot touch, that sin cannot taint; a body fashioned like unto His glorious body.”* Dwight L. Moody

*“Let them fear death who do not fear sin.”* Thomas Watson

*“Death is as near to the young as to the old; here is all the difference: death stands behind the young man's back, before the old man's face.”* Thomas Adams

*“Where sin has been removed death can only interrupt the earthly life and usher in the heavenly.”* John MacArthur

**Note:** What the Bible teaches about Step 12 in the *Ordo Salutis* (the Order of Salvation) is not often thought about or discussed- much less taught. And the Result of this embarrassing Silence by far too many in the modern Church- is great Confusion. This section of our Study is designed to allow the Light of sacred Scripture to shine on this important Subject so we may “know” what we should believe about this Issue. The Apostle John wrote this in **1Corinthians 2:12&13:**

**12 Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God,  
13 which things we also speak, not in words taught by human wisdom, but in those taught by the Spirit, combining spiritual thoughts with spiritual words.**

... so, it is God’s Will that we “**know the things freely given to us by God**”. And that *includes* how we should understand “Death and the Intermediate State.”

Now we all know what “*Death*” means- but what do we mean by the phrase, the “*Intermediate State*”? This is the time between the Death of a believer and the final Resurrection where he receives a “glorified” body. And all through the 2,000 years of Church History- there have been various ideas concerning this.

Some have held that during this time- believers are simply unconscious or they possibly may even go “out of existence”. And with all due respect to those who hold such views- the Bible simply does NOT teach this.

The biblical Evidence is that our soul continues on after our Death; and each person remains fully conscious in the Intermediate State- while they await their final Destiny of “resurrected Existence” in the new Heavens and new Earth. Please examine what the Apostle Paul taught about this from **Philippians 1:21-24:**

**21 For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.  
22 But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose.  
23 But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better;  
24 yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.**

In this Passage, Paul called, “*Death*” two things:

1. Gain
2. Very Much Better

... and that is NOT the usual way that we describe Death- even for believers. Most of the time- we see Death as a great Loss- and something to mourn and grieve over- even if the person who died has experienced the Miracle of the New Birth. But that is seeing things from the perspective of Man. And as believers, we should at least attempt to see things from the perspective of God- or do what the Puritans called and use the “Logic of Scripture”. And that would mean that we see Death as a great “Gain”; and to leave this earth in Death as being “very much better” than staying.

## **The Origin of Death**

Death is the absence of Life. And the Bible teaches that Death is the Result of Sin. And the Sin that results in Death may be our own *personal* Sin or it may be the Original Sin of Adam- or a combination of both. In **1Corinthians 15:22a**, God the Holy Spirit “moved” on the Apostle Paul to infallibly write this:

**For as in Adam all die ...**

... and then he said this in **Romans 5:12**:

**Therefore, just as through one man sin entered into the world, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men, because all sinned—**

And this tells us many things- among them is the Reality that before Adam sinned- nothing died.<sup>1</sup> But after Adam sinned- EVERYTHING died. Plants died; animals died; stars died; galaxies died; and now- people died.

But Sin brought about two kinds of Death:

1. Physical
2. Eternal

... we die physically now- primarily because of the “Original Sin” of Adam.

**1Corinthians 15:22**

**For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

Primarily, we all die (in both ways) because of Adam’s Sin that has been imputed to each successive generation through the seed of the Father.<sup>2</sup> But we contribute to both types of Death because of our own Sins as well.

So, it is true to say that we do not become “sinners” because we sin. Instead, we sin- because we are ALREADY sinners from the very moment of conception.

**We are Fully Conscious When We Die**

Paul spoke of having the desire "**to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better**" (**Philippians 1:23**). Notice first of all that Paul speaks of Death as a “*Departure*” (from the physical body). But this Departure is NOT into temporary “nothingness” or “unconsciousness”- but to be *with Christ*! And if we are with Christ (after we have died), then we *continue in* “Cognizant Existence” or Existence with full capabilities- including our ability to know and reason.

Notice that Paul speaks of this State as "**very much better**" than the present State on the earth. It would be very hard to say that about a State of complete unconsciousness. Particularly when we consider that Paul's Passion was to know Christ, it would seem that the reason the State

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<sup>1</sup> This is one of the most powerful Rebukes against Darwinian Evolution- which requires all species to live and die many times as they evolve. But the Bible clearly teaches that before Adam sinned- nothing died.

<sup>2</sup> This is part of the Doctrine of Original Sin. The other part is that, in addition of dying- we are also personally guilty of the Original Sin of Adam because we were in his loins when he sinned.

beyond Death is so much “better” than this present Life is because we are with Christ *and we know it!* If we were suddenly unconscious at Death until the Resurrection<sup>3</sup>, wouldn't it be better to remain in *this Life* because at least then we would have conscious Fellowship with Christ?

Also, in **2Corinthians 5:6**, Paul said,

**... while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord—**

... and then in **2Corinthians 5:6**, he said that he would,

**... prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.**

Now it is very significant that the Apostle speaks of the possibility of being *absent* from the physical body. And this implies that we indeed do have souls which continue to exist- even after the body dies. Also, notice again that he speaks of this State of being with the Lord and absent from the body- as his Preference, which indicates (as in **Philippians 1:23**) that we not only consciously continue to exist between Death and the Resurrection, but that we are very aware of our Existence.

Now even though the Narrative about the thief on the cross has been used by some to prove about every point in Christian Theology, his case is still relevant here:

**Luke 23:43**

**And He said to him, "Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.**

The Jehovah's Witness's *New World Translation* purposefully omits the comma after the word, “you” so that this verse reads, "Truly I say to you today, you shall be with Me in Paradise,"- giving the impression that "today" refers simply to the time of Jesus' Statement and NOT that the thief would be in Paradise on the same day as Jesus spoke.

Now the ONLY reason they do this- is because that Statement contradicts what they *already* believe about Death- and they have no problem altering the Bible to make it “fit in” with their own Doctrine. But the context of this verse *demand*s that the "today" refers to when the thief on the cross would be with Jesus in Paradise, because Jesus is responding to his request in the previous verse:

**Luke 23:42**

**Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!**

... and the response,

**Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise**

... can, in this context, ONLY be taken to mean, "*Not only will I remember you when I come in my Kingdom, but already today you shall be with me in Heaven.*"

Also, **The Revelation 6:9** speaks of John seeing underneath the altar,

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<sup>3</sup> This is the false Teaching of “soul sleep”

**... the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God, and because of the testimony which they had maintained;**

These individuals are surely NOT in a State of “Soul Sleep” because in the next verse they cry out with a loud voice,

**... How long, O Lord, holy and true, will You refrain from judging and avenging our blood on those who dwell on the earth? (The Revelation 6:10b)**

... showing that they are fully conscious; fully aware of what is going on around them; and able to communicate.

### **Reincarnation Versus Resurrection**

**Reincarnation:** The concept that the “non-physical essence” of a living being (his soul) begins a new Life in a different physical form or body after biological Death. According to several religions, Reincarnation usually occurs multiple times.

**Resurrection:** The concept that the “non-physical essence” of a living being (his soul) is raised from the dead in a physical, glorified body that will live forever. Resurrection usually only happens one time.

According to the Bible, at some point in the future- our physical bodies will be raised- not *spiritually* or *ethereally*, but *physically* and *materially*. Our souls will then be *reunited* with our transformed physical bodies- which have been brought back to Life from the Dead.

So, to even discuss a Resurrection implies “physicality.”

### **Matthew 22:23-32**

**23 On that day some Sadducees (who say there is no resurrection) came to Jesus and questioned Him,**

**24 asking, "Teacher, Moses said, 'IF A MAN DIES HAVING NO CHILDREN, HIS BROTHER AS NEXT OF KIN SHALL MARRY HIS WIFE, AND RAISE UP CHILDREN FOR HIS BROTHER.'**

**25 Now there were seven brothers with us; and the first married and died, and having no children left his wife to his brother;**

**26 so also the second, and the third, down to the seventh.**

**27 Last of all, the woman died.**

**28 In the resurrection, therefore, whose wife of the seven will she be? For they all had married her."**

**29 But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God.**

**30 For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.**

**31 But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:**

**32 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."**

**Luke 14:12-15**

**12 And He also went on to say to the one who had invited Him, "When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment.**

**13 But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,**

**14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."**

**15 When one of those who were reclining at the table with Him heard this, he said to Him, "Blessed is everyone who will eat bread in the kingdom of God!"**

**1Corinthians 15:35-58**

**35 But someone will say, "How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?"**

**36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies;**

**37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else.**

**38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own.**

**39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one flesh of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish.**

**40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.**

**41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory.**

**42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body;**

**43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power;**

**44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.**

**45 So also it is written, "The first MAN, Adam, BECAME A LIVING SOUL." The last Adam became a life-giving spirit.**

**46 However, the spiritual is not first, but the natural; then the spiritual.**

**47 The first man is from the earth, earthy; the second man is from heaven.**

**48 As is the earthy, so also are those who are earthy; and as is the heavenly, so also are those who are heavenly.**

**49 Just as we have borne the image of the earthy, we will also bear the image of the heavenly.**

**50 Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable.**

**51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,**

**52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

**53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

**54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

**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.**

**58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.**

**1Thessalonians 4:13-18**

**13 But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope.**

**14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.**

**15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

**18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Then we must realize that Jesus' resurrected Body is the Pattern for our resurrected bodies.

**Philippians 3:20&21**

**20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**

**21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

... and we know that Jesus had a real, physical Body AFTER His Resurrection because He appeared to the Disciples; spoke to them; taught them; and ate with them.

**Matthew 28:9&10**

**9 And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.**

**10 Then Jesus said to them, "Do not be afraid; go and take word to My brethren to leave for Galilee, and there they will see Me."**

**Mark 16:9-14**

**9 [Now after He had risen early on the first day of the week, He first appeared to Mary Magdalene, from whom He had cast out seven demons.**

**10 She went and reported to those who had been with Him, while they were mourning and weeping.**

**11 When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they refused to believe it.**



**12** After that, He appeared in a different form to two of them while they were walking along on their way to the country.

**13** They went away and reported it to the others, but they did not believe them either.

**14** Afterward He appeared to the eleven themselves as they were reclining at the table; and He reproached them for their unbelief and hardness of heart, because they had not believed those who had seen Him after He had risen.

**Luke 24:13-49**

**13** And behold, two of them were going that very day to a village named Emmaus, which was about seven miles from Jerusalem.

**14** And they were talking with each other about all these things which had taken place.

**15** While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself approached and began traveling with them.

**16** But their eyes were prevented from recognizing Him.

**17** And He said to them, "What are these words that you are exchanging with one another as you are walking?" And they stood still, looking sad.

**18** One of them, named Cleopas, answered and said to Him, "Are You the only one visiting Jerusalem and unaware of the things which have happened here in these days?"

**19** And He said to them, "What things?" And they said to Him, "The things about Jesus the Nazarene, who was a prophet mighty in deed and word in the sight of God and all the people,

**20** and how the chief priests and our rulers delivered Him to the sentence of death, and crucified Him.

**21** But we were hoping that it was He who was going to redeem Israel. Indeed, besides all this, it is the third day since these things happened.

**22** But also some women among us amazed us. When they were at the tomb early in the morning,

**23** and did not find His body, they came, saying that they had also seen a vision of angels who said that He was alive.

**24** Some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."

**25** And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!

**26** Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?"

**27** Then beginning with Moses and with all the prophets, He explained to them the things concerning Himself in all the Scriptures.

**28** And they approached the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther.

**29** But they urged Him, saying, "Stay with us, for it is getting toward evening, and the day is now nearly over." So He went in to stay with them.

**30** When He had reclined at the table with them, He took the bread and blessed it, and breaking it, He began giving it to them.

**31** Then their eyes were opened and they recognized Him; and He vanished from their sight.

**32** They said to one another, "Were not our hearts burning within us while He was speaking to us on the road, while He was explaining the Scriptures to us?"

33 And they got up that very hour and returned to Jerusalem, and found gathered together the eleven and those who were with them,  
34 saying, "The Lord has really risen and has appeared to Simon."  
35 They began to relate their experiences on the road and how He was recognized by them in the breaking of the bread.  
36 While they were telling these things, He Himself stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be to you."  
37 But they were startled and frightened and thought that they were seeing a spirit.  
38 And He said to them, "Why are you troubled, and why do doubts arise in your hearts?  
39 See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."  
40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.  
41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"  
42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;  
43 and He took it and ate it before them.  
44 Now He said to them, "These are My words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things which are written about Me in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms must be fulfilled."  
45 Then He opened their minds to understand the Scriptures,  
46 and He said to them, "Thus it is written, that the Christ would suffer and rise again from the dead the third day,  
47 and that repentance for forgiveness of sins would be proclaimed in His name to all the nations, beginning from Jerusalem.  
48 "You are witnesses of these things.  
49 "And behold, I am sending forth the promise of My Father upon you; but you are to stay in the city until you are clothed with power from on high."

#### **John 20:11-21:25**

11 But Mary was standing outside the tomb weeping; and so, as she wept, she stooped and looked into the tomb;  
12 and she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and one at the feet, where the body of Jesus had been lying.  
13 And they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?" She said to them, "Because they have taken away my Lord, and I do not know where they have laid Him."  
14 When she had said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, and did not know that it was Jesus.  
15 Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing Him to be the gardener, she said to Him, "Sir, if you have carried Him away, tell me where you have laid Him, and I will take Him away."  
16 Jesus said to her, "Mary!" She turned and said to Him in Hebrew, "Rabboni!" (which means, Teacher).  
17 Jesus said to her, "Stop clinging to Me, for I have not yet ascended to the Father; but go to My brethren and say to them, 'I ascend to My Father and your Father, and My God and your God.'"

**18** Mary Magdalene came, announcing to the disciples, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said these things to her.

**19** So when it was evening on that day, the first day of the week, and when the doors were shut where the disciples were, for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood in their midst and said to them, "Peace be with you."

**20** And when He had said this, He showed them both His hands and His side. The disciples then rejoiced when they saw the Lord.

**21** So Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you; as the Father has sent Me, I also send you."

**22** And when He had said this, He breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit.

**23** If you forgive the sins of any, their sins have been forgiven them; if you retain the sins of any, they have been retained."

**24** But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.

**25** So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."

**26** After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."

**27** Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."

**28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

**29** Jesus said to him, "Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed."

**30** Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book;

**31** but these have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing you may have life in His name.

**21:1** After these things Jesus manifested Himself again to the disciples at the Sea of Tiberias, and He manifested Himself in this way.

**2** Simon Peter, and Thomas called Didymus, and Nathanael of Cana in Galilee, and the sons of Zebedee, and two others of His disciples were together.

**3** Simon Peter said to them, "I am going fishing." They said to him, "We will also come with you." They went out and got into the boat; and that night they caught nothing.

**4** But when the day was now breaking, Jesus stood on the beach; yet the disciples did not know that it was Jesus.

**5** So Jesus said to them, "Children, you do not have any fish, do you?" They answered Him, "No."

**6** And He said to them, "Cast the net on the right-hand side of the boat and you will find a catch." So they cast, and then they were not able to haul it in because of the great number of fish.

**7** Therefore that disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." So when Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put his outer garment on (for he was stripped for work), and threw himself into the sea.

**8** But the other disciples came in the little boat, for they were not far from the land, but about one hundred yards away, dragging the net full of fish.

9 So when they got out on the land, they saw a charcoal fire already laid and fish placed on it, and bread.

10 Jesus said to them, "Bring some of the fish which you have now caught."

11 Simon Peter went up and drew the net to land, full of large fish, a hundred and fifty-three; and although there were so many, the net was not torn. Jesus Provides

12 Jesus said to them, "Come and have breakfast." None of the disciples ventured to question Him, "Who are You?" knowing that it was the Lord.

13 Jesus came and took the bread and gave it to them, and the fish likewise.

14 This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

15 So when they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Tend My lambs."

16 He said to him again a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" He said to Him, "Yes, Lord; You know that I love You." He said to him, "Shepherd My sheep."

17 He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me?" Peter was grieved because He said to him the third time, "Do you love Me?" And he said to Him, "Lord, You know all things; You know that I love You." Jesus said to him, "Tend My sheep."

18 Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"

20 Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"

23 Therefore this saying went out among the brethren that that disciple would not die; yet Jesus did not say to him that he would not die, but only, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you?"

24 This is the disciple who is testifying to these things and wrote these things, and we know that his testimony is true.

25 And there are also many other things which Jesus did, which if they were written in detail, I suppose that even the world itself would not contain the books that would be written.

To speak of a "Resurrection" of the dead"- is to *imply* living, breathing "physicality".

**Matthew 22:30-32**

30 "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

31 "But regarding the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God:

32 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, AND THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB'? He is not the God of the dead but of the living."

**Luke 14:12-14**

**"When you give a luncheon or a dinner, do not invite your friends or your brothers or your relatives or rich neighbors, otherwise they may also invite you in return and that will be your repayment.**

**13 "But when you give a reception, invite the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind,**

**14 and you will be blessed, since they do not have the means to repay you; for you will be repaid at the resurrection of the righteous."**

**1Corinthians 15:51-58**

**51 Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed,**

**52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.**

**53 For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.**

**54 But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, "DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory.**

**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.**

**58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your toil is not in vain in the Lord.**

**1Thessalonians 4:16-18**

**16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

**18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

... and these verses give us insight into how the Resurrection will be. The Bible simply has no categories for the Concept of a resurrected body that *remains* dead and physically lying in a grave.

**Philippians 3:20&21** teaches us that Christ's resurrection Body is the "Pattern" of our resurrection body:

**20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ;**

**21 who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.**

We know that Jesus was raised in a physical Body because the disciples ate with Him after the Resurrection:

**The Acts 10:40&41**

**40 "God raised Him up on the third day and granted that He become visible,**

**41 not to all the people, but to witnesses who were chosen beforehand by God, that is, to us who ate and drank with Him after He arose from the dead.**

... and they touched Him

**Matthew 28:9**

**And behold, Jesus met them and greeted them. And they came up and took hold of His feet and worshiped Him.**

**John 20:27&28**

**27 Then He said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."**

**28 Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"**

Also, Jesus outright declared that His resurrection Body was "physical and touchable" and that He was NOT a "spirit".

**Luke 24:39-43**

**39 "See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself; touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."**

**40 And when He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet.**

**41 While they still could not believe it because of their joy and amazement, He said to them, "Have you anything here to eat?"**

**42 They gave Him a piece of a broiled fish;**

**43 and He took it and ate it before them.**

**The Acts 13:32&33**

**32 And we preach to you the good news of the promise made to the fathers,**

**33 that God has fulfilled this promise to our children in that He raised up Jesus, as it is also written in the second Psalm, 'YOU ARE MY SON; TODAY I HAVE BEGOTTEN YOU.'**

... and since Christ's Resurrection is the Pattern of our own resurrection, we will therefore be raised in a physical body as well.

**Romans 8:19-23** speaks of waiting for "**the redemption of our bodies**" (v. 23). So, our bodies are NOT going to be thrown away. They are going to be renewed, restored, and revitalized- even resurrected!

**Romans 8:19-23**

**19 For the anxious longing of the creation waits eagerly for the revealing of the sons of God.**

**20 For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of Him who subjected it, in hope**

**21 that the creation itself also will be set free from its slavery to corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God.**

**22 For we know that the whole creation groans and suffers the pains of childbirth together until now.**

**23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body.**

Also, in **John 5:28&29**, Jesus spoke of the Resurrection as involving the “coming forth” of individuals out of their tombs, which clearly indicates a *physical* concept of the Resurrection:

**John 5:28&29**

**28 Do not marvel at this; for an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice,**

**29 and will come forth; those who did the good deeds to a resurrection of life, those who committed the evil deeds to a resurrection of judgment.**

Finally, the Old Testament also speaks of the Resurrection as being *physical*:

**Daniel 12:1&2**

**1 “Now at that time Michael, the great prince who stands guard over the sons of your people, will arise. And there will be a time of distress such as never occurred since there was a nation until that time; and at that time your people, everyone who is found written in the book, will be rescued.**

**2 “Many of those who sleep in the dust of the ground will awake, these to everlasting life, but the others to disgrace and everlasting contempt.**

**Job 19:25-27**

**25 “As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, And at the last He will take His stand on the earth.**

**26 “Even after my skin is destroyed, Yet from my flesh I shall see God;**

**27 Whom I myself shall behold, And whom my eyes will see and not another. My heart faints within me!**

**Do we Receive Our Resurrected Bodies When We Die or at the End of the Age?**

The Bible teaches that the Resurrection of the Body will occur at the End of the Age when Jesus returns. And there are two main ways the Scriptures indicate this.

First, many verses teach that our resurrected bodies will be the very *same bodies* that we have now- *except* they will be transformed into an “immortal State.” Since God does not create “new” bodies for us from scratch, but rather *resurrects* the body that dies, it is clear that we do not receive our resurrection bodies immediately at Death. For our bodies, very clearly and evidently, remain here on earth and are laid to rest.

Second, many explicit verses declare that the Resurrection will not occur until the End of the Age when Jesus returns.

**Daniel 12:13**

**But as for you [Daniel], go your way to the end; then you will enter into rest and rise again for your allotted portion at the end of the age.**

... here, the angel looks ahead to the Resurrection as occurring at the End of the Age.

**John 6:39&41, 44&54**

**39 This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.**

**40 For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day."**

**Words to the Jews 41 Therefore the Jews were grumbling about Him, because He said, "I am the bread that came down out of heaven."**

**44 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up on the last day.**

**54 He who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.**

Jesus declares here that the Resurrection will happen on the "Last Day". And the Apostle Paul also gave a timeframe:

**1Corinthians 15:22-26**

**22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive.**

**23 But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming,**

**24 then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.**

**25 For He must reign until He has put all His enemies under His feet.**

**26 The last enemy that will be abolished is death.**

In **1Thessalonians 4:14-18**, the Apostle looks ahead to the Resurrection as something that will NOT occur until Jesus comes back:

**14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus.**

**15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep.**

**16 For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first.**

**17 Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord.**

**18 Therefore comfort one another with these words.**

Now the fact that the Resurrection will happen at the Return of Jesus has important Implications:

- It means that Glorification will be a *Corporate Reality* (the whole Church) and NOT an *individual Experience* that happens to each believer separately at Death. All Christians will be raised into glory *together*.



- While we all lived at different periods of time; we all came to Faith at different times; and we all will have died at different times (except for those who lived until Christ returns); God has planned that our Glorification will occur at the *same* time.

What a great Encouragement it is to know that the believers of the Past are waiting for us to finish the Race ourselves- so that we can all experience the great Joy of Glorification together!

Amen.

To the Board of Elders,  
This is what I believe  
The Covenant of Peace Church  
Gulfport, Mississippi  
June 2022

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The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.