

1) Jesus' End...

- Interesting how Jesus dealt with His **End...** Jesus on route to Jerusalem - this time is The End, he is going to die, and starts teaches the disciples about His death. Mrk 8:31, Mrk 9:30, Mrk 10:32
- In Jerusalem, Last Supper, because the clock had run down, shared His most important instructions.
 1. Love one another. John 13:35
 2. The next thing He says is about **The End...** He is going away, but will return
 3. Talks to us about the importance of the **Holy Spirit** to **The End...** John 14:16-18
 - The Holy Spirit will guide us, will tell us of things to come **The End...** John 16:13
 - Lo I am with you to *The End of the age...* **coach, guide, mentor, teacher** with us
- The Disciples asked Jesus about **The End...** and He told them Matt 24:3 NLT
- What did Jesus know, that removed fear of death, to lead in victory into **The End...?**

2) Eternity - The state of Spirit, Soul, Body

- Paul said – Don't be *Ignorance - lack of understanding is the breeding ground for fear* **1 Thess 4:13-18**

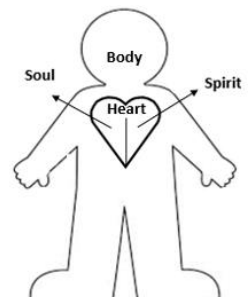
a) Eternity

- **Good News for you:** It's not over when you die - life is not over- we are already part of eternity.
- Scripture teaches that we live forever. Matt 25:46
 - "God set eternity in our hearts" Ecc 3:11
 - "God so loved the world, sent His Son, whoever believes will have eternal life" John 3:16
- The unmistakable teaching of the Bible is that all people, whether saved or lost, will exist eternally. We do not cease to exist when our fleshly bodies pass away in death. Matt 25:46, Ps 23:6, Dan 12:2

b) Spirit, Soul, Body

- We are told in the Word of God that we are made up of three parts.
- Spirit, Soul, and Body

1 Thess 5:23



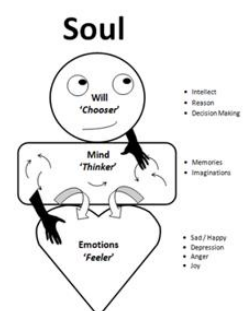
1. Body

2. Spirit

- This '**heart**' of a man is not the physical body organ that pumps blood through our veins, but refers to our **Soul** and **Spirit** united
 - God is Spirit, so man is primarily a spirit being John 4:24
 - In the beginning God created man in His own image Gen 1:26

3. Soul

→ The soul comprises of the **Will, Mind** and **Emotions**.



3) Process of death

- Death is an exit gate, Heaven is an entrance gate, the same **gate / door** Jhn 11:25-26, 2 Cor 5:8
- In the Bible, Death is often called SLEEP - **54 times in the Bible**
- The sleeper does not cease to exist when sleeping but is simply not communicating.
- Sleepers always wake up, they enter sleep and exit sleep
- Sleep has its waking, and death will have its resurrection

4) The Intermediate State (After Death)

a) What happens to your physical body when you die?

- We all know that the body perishes (decomposes and ultimately returns to dust) after death.

Ecc 3:20, Gen 3:19

b) What happens to your spirit when you die?

- When we die, we face an instant judgment that is called the '**judgment of faith**'.
- This initial judgement depends not on our works, but our **faith**. Ecc 12:7, Heb 9:27-28 NIV
- If we have accepted Christ's atoning death for us, then God sees Jesus' sacrifice and not our sin. We stand before Him righteous (in right standing – as if it never happened)
 - Jesus said to the thief on the cross – "**Today you will be with me in paradise**" Lk 23:43
 - Paul said – "**to be absent rather from the body, and to be present with the Lord**" 2 Cor 5:8
- **If we have not accepted Jesus, then we face a tormented, and Eternal separation from God**
- **Jesus is talking and gives a parable describing the separation that occurs at The End...**

c) What happens to your soul when you die? (intellect, decision making, memories & personality)

- Your eternal spirit & Soul (the real you) is able to '**see**', '**hear**' and '**feel**' even without a physical body.
 - But *John 4:24* "God is a Spirit". All of these verses are examples of *anthropomorphism*—a way of describing God with anatomical or emotional terms so that humans can better understand Him. Using figurative language, does not imply that God has an actual body.
 - *Isaiah 59:1* mentions God's "**hand**" and "**ear**"
 - *2 Chronicles 16:9* speaks of God's "**eyes**"
 - *Matthew 4:4* puts words in God's "**mouth**"
 - In *Deuteronomy 33:27* God has "**arms**"
 - We are created in His image (*Gen 1:26, Jms 3:9, Eph 4:24, Col 3:10*) in His likeness, so we too are spirit being is able to '**see**', '**hear**' and '**feel**' even without a physical body in the Intermediate State.

5) The unseen Worlds – Hell, Hades, Gehenna, Paradise, Heaven

In the Bible, translators loosely use the word '**Hell**' but not found directly in the Bible

a) Heaven

- Heaven is where God our Father, and Jesus reside.
- It also has a city, throne

b) Paradise and Hades (Greek) / Sheol (Hebrew)

- The Old Testament called hell "**Sheol**" = place of the dead spirits.
- "**Hades**" means 'Unseen' and designates the '*unseen world*' to which all human spirits/souls depart when they die. Luke 16:19-31, Acts 2:31
- Hades consisted of two sections, namely '**Paradise**' and 'a place of **torment**, this is clear from the actual story of the rich man and Lazarus that Jesus told. Luke 16:19-31 (NIV)
- '**Paradise**' comes from the Persian word 'pairideza', meaning a '*walled park or enclosed garden*'
- This was considered to be a place of peace, blessing and rest. It was the region where the godly and believing waited for the consummation of the ages—the establishing of the Kingdom of the Messiah.
- Hades (place of torment) is a place of disembodied spirits, waiting for the resurrection of the body on Judgment day.
- Notice how after death the spirit/soul could still **remember**, **feel pity** and **memories** & suffered **pain**
- Those who died in **faith** went to Paradise

- Jesus conquers death
 - Jesus dies & descends to hades x3 Eph 4:9, Matt 12:40, Acts 2:31 Pic 4
 - Jesus strips satan of keys of the kingdom & takes authority over sin, hades and death. Rev 1:18
 - Jesus preaches to those in Hades 1 Pet 3:18-20, Zech 9:11-12
 - 3rd Day - Holy Spirit gives life to Jesus Body - Resurrected Rom 8:11, Eph 1:17-20, 1 Pet 3:18
 - After the resurrection of Jesus - Jesus took the keys of death and Hades (Paradise) and led the captives out (prisoners of hope), moving Paradise to Heaven Zech 9:11-12
 - Jesus Leads captive in triumphant parade Eph 4:8, Matt 27:52-53
 - Jesus ascends with the blood Heb 9:25
 - Jesus present the blood to the Father making atonement Heb 9:12
 - Jesus returns to encourage the disciples for 40 days Jhn 21:13
 - Jesus ascends into heaven Luke 24:51, Acts 1:9-11
 - Jesus sits down @ the right hand Eph 1:20
 - Paul assented into paradise 2 Cor 12:4
 - In / out of the body, he did not know - but he felt like normal person, he could hear, saw stuff that he can't repeat
 - Jesus then send the Holy Spirit on Pentecost birthing the Church

c) Gehenna

Gehenna is the name of a valley of Jerusalem which was used as a refuse dump and was constantly burning. Jesus used this name to designate eternal judgement. Mark 9:47, Jam 3:6

We most often refer to **hell** (Gehenna / Lake of Fire) as the end eternal judgment place for satan, the demons and non-believers after the final judgment.

d) The false doctrine of purgatory

Nowhere in Scripture do we find any basis for believing that there is an intermediate state that the soul can graduate from.

In Catholic theology, purgatory is an intermediate state after physical death in which those destined for heaven "*undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven*". This erroneous doctrine was first enunciated by the Council of Florence 1439 and by the Council of Trent 1545-1563.

6) Children in Death

- I believe children will be in heaven – Kingdom of God is theirs Lk 18:16
- Talking of the reign and rule in the Kingdom of God , children will be there Isaiah 11:6-8
- God knew everyone even babies that never got a chance to be born, they not accidents, they not abandoned , He had days written for them...
 - *I knew you, and before you were born & formed you in the womb* Jer 1:5
 - *You formed my inward parts, I am fearfully and wonderfully made,* Ps 139:13-17
- Davids son dies: "I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me" 2 Sam 12:19-23
- Age of accountability
 - The Bible does not directly address an age of accountability.
 - People see him in nature and have no excuse for not knowing God – babies can't Rom 1:20
 - No excuse would indicate that, a person must be able to reason & repent "Repent and be baptised..." Children don't understand repentance Acts 2:38-41

7) Final Rewards after death

a) The final destiny & punishment of the wicked

- There is a judgement Day - The wicked are to be punished 2 Thess 1:7-9
- Eternal or Everlasting Punishment 2 Thess 1:7-9, Matt 25:46
- Darkness is used to describe the condition of the lost Matt 8:12, Matt 13:42, 50
- Fire is one of the most constant images under which the torment and misery of the wicked is represented. This fire is unquenchable and contains an element of eternal torment Matt 5:22, Matt 25:41, Matt 3:12, Matt 18:8, Rev 20:10

Note: *Hell was NEVER created for people, it was created for satan and his demons. God wanted all men saved (1 Tim 2:3-4). People will go to hell, not because of their deeds / sin, but for refusing to accept Jesus' atoning blood sacrifice that cleanses them from their sin. Rom 6:23*

b) The final reward of the Righteous

The bible clearly teaches that there is a rewards for the righteous

- Part of our reward is that we shall never die (spiritually) John 8:51, John 11:25-26
- We will be raised from the dead. We will have new resurrected bodies. Rom 8:23, Phil 3:21
- We will receive crowns:
 - a crown of life, glory, righteousness Jam 1:12, 1 Pet 5:4, 2 Tim 4:8
- We will reign & rule with Christ (1,000 yrs) Rev 20:4
- We will have a new heaven and earth Rev 21:1
- We will have a special home, the New Jerusalem Rev 21:2 – Rev 22:5
- We live with God, no pain, sorrow Rev 21:3, Rev. 21
- We are partakers of the rewards of the seven "overcomers" in Revelation
 - Eat of the tree of Life in paradise Rev 2:7
 - Will not be hurt by the second death – Final Judgement Day Rev 2:11, Rev 20:11-15
 - Eat manna, & be justified (white stone), new name given to us Rev 2:17
 - Power over the nations, rule and reign of the nations Rev 2:26
 - Our names will not be blotted out Book of Life, Jesus will personally name us to the Father and angels, and new garments/robes Rev 3:4-5
 - Exempt from the tribulation (hour of trial), my new name written on me. "I belong to God" written on me - permanently, eternally Rev 3:12
 - Sit with Christ on His throne next to God the Father Rev 3:21
- Our status changes, we are the bride in the most famous, extravagant wedding that was or will ever be know. We get to rule and reign with Him - Jesus

8) Conclusion

- Paul in the context of this passage was referring to the ***The End...*** **Eph 5:1**
- We saw a few weeks back that time is short, ***The clock determines the play.***
- Here is the truth - **there is no second chance** once you die!
- Today is the day to decide to live for Jesus Rom 6:23, 2 Cor 6:2

Rom 6:23

For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

2 Corinthians 6:2 (NLT)

For God says, "At just the right time, I heard you. On the day of salvation, I helped you." Indeed, the "right time (Kairos)" is now. Today is the day of salvation.