

Series on Death and the Afterlife – sermon 3 – 7/11/10 (am)

The Intermediate State

Philippians 1:23 (& Luke 12:4-5)

Theme: When the body dies the soul goes immediately to Heaven or Hell.

*The most information we have
on [this] subject is the clear
whispering of the New
Testament.*

(Berkouwer)

Misconceptions Concerning What Happens Immediately after Death

1. When the body dies the soul does not go before God for judgement and pronouncement of sentence.

This is not denying Hebrews 9:27. This will not happen until the Second Advent.

2. When the body dies the soul does not go to an intermediate *place*, e.g. Purgatory.

This is taught nowhere in the Bible.

The doctrine comes from the Apocrypha. (2 Maccabees 12:43-45)

This doctrine degrades Jesus' work of atonement.

Neither is there any Scriptural basis
for *Limbus Infantum*
(a place for unbaptised infants),
or *Limbus Patrum*
(a temporary place for Old Testament
saints).

3. After death the soul does not sleep.

Cf. 2 Kings 14:16; John 11:11-13; Acts 7:59-60; 1 Thessalonians 4:13.

4. After death the soul is not annihilated.

5. After death there is no reincarnation.

What happens immediately after death?

General Answer:
The Intermediate State

After physical death a person *immediately* enters the *Intermediate State*.

It is a *state* because it is with regard to the soul only and this is not the *final* state.

The Specific Answers

1. The Christian immediately goes to Heaven, *cf.* Philippians 1:23.
2. The non-Christian immediately goes to Hell, *cf.* Luke 12:4-5; John 3:18; 6:29; Acts 4:12.

When a person dies his/her soul goes immediately to either Heaven or Hell.

Conclusion – Your Response?

*How do you respond to Philippians
1:23 and Luke 12:4-5?*

Do you see where you are heading?

The moment a Christian dies his/her soul goes to Heaven. **Be glad!**

The moment a non-Christian dies his/her soul goes to Hell. **Beware!**

There is no second chance in Hell.

Jesus' death has made salvation possible for you.

Do not neglect so great a salvation!