

WHY

I BELIEVE

?

LIFE AFTER DEATH | PASTOR GLEN BARNES | SEPTEMBER 6TH, 2026

First
BAPTIST CHURCH OF LEBANON

1. Death is _____.

ARGUMENTS FOR LIFE AFTER DEATH

- Nature: *"There is a Cycle in nature that is obvious to us all. I'm not sure what's after death, but nature seems to give us a picture of some kind of new life."* ~ Plato
- Anthropology
- Psychology: *"If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."* ~ CS Lewis
- Ethics
- Philosophy: *"If there is a good God, and there is morality, there has to be an afterlife for any of this to make sense."* ~ Immanuel Kant
- Science and Near-Death Experiences
- The _____

2. Death is _____ of eternity.

- Our spirit continues to live.

“ We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.”

2 CORINTHIANS 5:8 (KJV)

Jesus' Paradigm - Luke 16:22-31

Paul's Paradigm - 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Philippians 1:21-24

- There will be a future _____.

“ Do not be amazed at this, for a time is coming when all who are in their graves will hear his voice ²⁹ and come out—those who have done what is good will rise to live, and those who have done what is evil will rise to be condemned.”

JOHN 5:28-29 (NIV)

“ Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed— ⁵² in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.”

1 CORINTHIANS 15:51-52 (NIV)

- All people will face a time of _____.

“ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment,”

HEBREWS 9:27 (NIV)

3. Eternity Has _____ .

HEAVEN

“What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived – the things God has prepared for those who love him.”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:9B (NIV)

- Forever in the presence of God
- Evil is no more
- All of God's good creation will be restored, healed and whole

HELL

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, he will sit on his glorious throne. ³² All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate the people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. ³³ He will put the sheep on his right and the goats on his left. ³⁴ ‘Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.’”

MATTHEW 25:31-34 (NIV)

“Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’”

MATTHEW 25:41 (NIV)

HOW CAN AN ALL-LOVING GOD ALLOW PEOPLE TO GO TO HELL

- Man's dignity and freedom demand it.
- God's justice and holiness demand it.
- Sin is serious and demands it.

- Biblical Terms Associated with Hell: Sheol, Hades, Gehenna, Lake of Fire
- Darkness, Torment, Fire. (*Matthew 25:41, Revelation 20:14-15*)
- Ultimately, separation from God and His goodness.

“He will punish those who do not know God and do not obey the gospel of our Lord Jesus. ⁹ They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might.”

2 THESSALONIANS 1:8-9 (NIV)

4. Eternity _____ .

“For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith—and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God— ⁹ not by works, so that no one can boast.”

EPHESIANS 2:8-9 (NIV)

DISCUSSION Questions:

COMMUNITY GROUP VIDEOS available on the APP |      

- 1 - What is the biggest question people have about Life after Death?
- 2 - The message gave several “breadcrumbs” that point toward life after death. Which one—nature, anthropology, psychology, ethics/philosophy, near-death experiences, or the resurrection of Jesus—do you find most interesting or compelling? Why?
- 3 - How does believing that “death is not the end” change the way we should think about our life right now?
- 4 - Read Revelation 21:1-5, Revelation 21:22-27 and John 14:2-6. What part of the Bible's picture of heaven, in these or other verses, gives you the most hope or excitement?
- 5 - Why do you think talking about hell and eternal judgment is difficult? How should Christians talk about this subject with both truth and compassion?
- 6 - The message ends with the statement, “Eternity demands a decision.” What does that mean for you personally, and how might it affect the way you live or share your faith with others?

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