

The Bible and the Future, December 11, 2016

Class #2 The Intermediate State and the Lord's Return

I. Next Sunday in class #3 we shall examine what the Bible says about the Main Event of Jesus' actual return to history. Today we look at: **What does HOPE in Christ mean to the Dead in Christ?** What is their reality? Are they consciously waiting? Do they have bodies yet? Do unbelievers dying without Christ get a 'second chance?'

Scripture speaks to guide, comfort and assure us on this. But it is found in various scattered clues. For example, the words **"Intermediate State"** are not even found in the Bible— theologians had to invent the term!

Physical Death as the "wages of sin." See Romans 5:12-21

Does the Bible actually teach "immortality of the soul?" 1 Tim. 1:17 & 6:16;
Romans 1:23

II. The Classic Biblical View of the 'Intermediate State':

Several landmark texts:

Psalm 16:8-11 and Psalm 73:23-26

Luke 16: 19-31

2 Corinthian 5:1-10

Philippians 1:21-23

III. Three Unbiblical Views of the Intermediate State:

A. 'Annihilationism' or Soul Extinction

B. Soul 'Sleep'

C. Purgatory

IV. Another Fascinating Way to Think about all this that does not seem to contradict any Scripture. WHAT IF... *TIME* as we know it has no hold upon the Dead?? What are the implications of that?

(Note those wanting more on this possible viewpoint that does involve a certain amount of speculation and imagination, see the final chapter of Dr. Rogers book, *What Happens After I Die?* for a more complete discussion.)