

## Facing the Last Enemy

Dr. Guy Prentiss Waters

February 22, 2026

### Preview

Where do people go when they die? What is their fate? What happens between a person's death and the return of Christ at the end of the age in glory? This is often called the Intermediate State

### What Happens After Death?

Four unbiblical views

1. Universalism: If God is love, then surely everyone will be saved. But the Bible says...

- We are sentenced to death (Rom 5:12), enemies of God by nature (Rom 3:10-12)
- There is salvation, but it is in Christ alone thru faith alone (Jn 3:36)

*God is both loving and just, so the question isn't, "Why doesn't God save everyone?"  
The question is, "Why does God save anyone at all?"*

2. Annihilationism: God will judge the wicked, then they will cease to exist. But the Bible says...

- Existence after death is a conscious existence, both for the believer (Phil 1:21-23) and the unbeliever (Lk 15:24; Rev 14:11)

3. A second chance: After death there will be an opportunity to repent and believe in Christ. But the Bible says...

- People will be judged for life on earth, not what happens after (2 Cor 5:10; Heb 9:27)

4. Purgatory: A place where believers go after death for final purification before entering heaven. But the Bible says...

- God justifies the ungodly and declares them righteous through the righteousness of His Son (Rom 5:17-20; 2 Cor 5:21; Eph 2:8-9)

What is the Biblical view? What does happen after death?

- For the believer:
  - Our souls are made perfectly holy and brought immediately into the presence of the Father and the Son (Lk 23:42-43; Heb 12:22-24)

- Our bodies are committed to the grave but still united to Christ, with the hope of full restoration at the resurrection (1 Thess 4:16; Isa 57:1-2)
- For the unbeliever:
  - Their souls are cast into hell, held for a time until their appearance before the great Judge over all the earth (1 Pet 2:9)

### **Concluding thoughts**

- In view of the finality of death, we should be bold in sharing the Good News about Jesus Christ
- And we should never forget the glorious portion of the believer.
  - Not simply to be free from the struggles of this life and united with believing loved ones, but to be in the presence of our Savior forever (Ps 73:25)
  - Living our lives now with our hope placed firmly in the glorious home that awaits us (Jn 14:1-3; Heb 11:8-10)