

WCF 32, Of the State of Men after Death, and of the Resurrection of the Dead.

1. The bodies of men, **after death, return to dust**, and see corruption: but their **souls, which neither die nor sleep**, having an **immortal subsistence**, immediately return to God who gave them: the **souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens**, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the **souls of the wicked are cast into hell**, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. **Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledgeth none.**

What Happens at Death?

1. Mortality of the body-

Application: a. Hope of Future Grace

b. Preparation for death

2. Immortality of the soul-

Does the soul exist?

What is "immortal substance"?

3. Disposition of the soul to heaven-

4. Disposition of the soul to hell-

5. No other possibility-

2. At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the **self-same bodies**, and none other (although with different qualities), which shall **be united again to their souls** for ever.

Reunion of body and soul at resurrection

Transition of those alive-

1. Continuity of the body/ reunion to the soul-

2. (Reformed view of “Rapture”/ tribulation)-

3. The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour: the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honour; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.

Disposition of Body and Soul at Resurrection

1. For Believers
2. For Unbelievers

Intermission: The Divine’s View of Millennialism:

“Knowing how divisive the issue of eschatology can be...the divines chose their words carefully, making no reference whatsoever to issues of major division and misunderstanding, and choosing a formula of expression that comprehensively included several traditions, as well as denouncing views there were clearly opposed to biblical teaching. In its criticism of pre-millennial views, Westminster is a model of gentleness.”¹

WCF 33, Of the Last Judgment.

1. God hath appointed a day, wherein He will judge the world, in righteousness, by Jesus Christ, to whom all power and judgment is given of the Father. In which day, not only the apostate angels shall be judged, but likewise all persons that have lived upon earth shall appear before the tribunal of Christ, to give an account of their thoughts, words, and deeds; and to receive according to what they have done in the body, whether good or evil.

The Last Judgment

1. Instinct and Certainty of Judgment-
2. The Son as Judge-
3. The Universality and Perfection of the Judgment-

Q: Will Christians be judged for sinful actions?

¹ Derek Thomas, *Westminster Confession into the 21st Century*, Volume 2,307-8

Q: Will Christians be rewarded for their “good works”?

Q: Will those who have never heard the gospel be judged?

2. The **end of God's appointing this day is for the manifestation of the glory of His mercy**, in the eternal salvation of the elect; **and of His justice**, in the damnation of the reprobate, who are wicked and disobedient. For then shall the righteous go into everlasting life, and receive that fullness of joy and refreshing, which shall come from the presence of the Lord: but the wicked, who know not God, and obey not the Gospel of Jesus Christ, shall be cast into eternal torments, and be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power.

The end of the Judgment

1. Manifestation of His Mercy-
2. Manifestation of His Justice-

3. As Christ would have us to be certainly **persuaded** that there shall be a day of judgment, both **to deter all men from sin**; and **for the greater consolation** of the godly in their adversity: so will He have that day unknown to men, that they may **shake off all carnal security, and be always watchful**, because they know not at what hour the Lord will come; and may be **ever prepared to say, Come Lord Jesus, come quickly. Amen.**

The fruit of conviction:

1. Deterrence to Sin-
2. Consolation to Godly-

Fruit of an uncertain date:

Always Watchful, Prepared, Expectant

Behold, the LORD has proclaimed to the end of the earth: Say to the daughter of Zion, “Behold, your salvation comes; behold, his reward is with him, and his recompense before him.” And they shall be called The Holy People, The Redeemed of the LORD; and you shall be called Sought Out, A City Not Forsaken. – Isaiah 62:11, 12