

**Personal Eschatology:
What Happens When We Die?**

1. Introduction: Despite the obvious importance of the question, and despite its relevance for how we live, there remains much confusion within the church about the nature of the Christian's hope.

2. Death: The sting of death has been removed, but it remains an enemy to be finally defeated.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:13

 - b. 1 Corinthians 15:26

3. The Intermediate State: After death, and before Christ's return, God's people enjoy being in the presence of Christ.
 - a. The intermediate state is a clear promise, much to be desired.
 - i. Psalm 16:10; 73:24

 - ii. 2 Corinthians 5:8

 - iii. Philippians 1:23

 - b. The intermediate state is nevertheless not the end of the story. In the intermediate state, God's people are still waiting: for resurrection, for vindication, for the renewal of creation.
 - i. Revelation 6:9

 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:23

4. The Resurrection of the Body: At the return of Christ, our bodies will be raised and glorified.
 - a. This is the Christian's central hope, the hope upon which we should fix our attention.
 - i. 1 Corinthians 15:12-19

 - ii. 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

 - b. There is genuine continuity and discontinuity between the body that dies and the resurrection body.
 - i. Luke 24:39, 43

 - ii. 1 Corinthians 15:42-49

5. Life Everlasting: We will forever enjoy embodied life on a cleansed and renewed earth, enjoying the presence of God as he always intended for all of creation as his temple/garden/city.
 - a. 1 Thessalonians 4:17

 - b. Revelation 21:2-3

 - c. Encourage one another with *these* words (1 Thessalonians 4:18).