

RESILIENT



BODY EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Philippians 3:18 – 4:1

Pastor Daniel Hahn

August 22/23, 2020

MESSAGE NOTES

Five common misconceptions about what happens when people die:

1. Universalism (nearly everyone eventually ends up in heaven)

I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am He, you will indeed die in your sins. — John 8:24

2. Annihilationism (those who reject God's grace eventually cease to exist)

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt. — Daniel 12:2

3. A non-literal Hell (there may be a Hell, but it won't be that bad)

If the references to fire and darkness are symbolic, they're symbolic because the reality is too awful for words. — R.C. Sproul

They will be punished with everlasting destruction and shut out from the presence of the Lord ... — 2 Thessalonians 1:9

4. Purgatory (good people go there to pay off their sins, then go to heaven)

For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith — and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God — not by works, ... — Ephesians 2:8 – 9

5. Reincarnation (people come back to this world as someone or something else)

... people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment ... — Hebrews 9:27

What the Bible has to say about those who belong to God:

1. Our earthly journey is temporal.

You don't have a soul. You are a Soul. You have a body. — C.S. Lewis

2. Our true home lies ahead of us.

Here, we have bodies and we work, rest, play, and relate to one another — we call this life. Yet many have mistakenly redefined eternal life to mean an off-earth disembodied existence stripped of human life's defining properties. In fact, eternal life will mean enjoying forever, as resurrected (which means embodied) beings, what life on Earth at its finest offered us. We could more accurately call our present existence the before life rather than calling Heaven the afterlife. Life doesn't merely continue in Heaven, it emerges at last to its intended fullness. — Randy Alcorn, *If God Is Good*

3. Our body upgrade is guaranteed.

There is no room for doubt as to what He means; God's people are promised a new type of bodily existence, the fulfillment and redemption of our present bodily life. — N.T. Wright



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4. Our eternal future is a sure reality.

Because we know that the One who raised the Lord Jesus from the dead will also raise us with Jesus and present us with You to Himself. ... So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen, since what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal. — 2 Corinthians 4:14, 18

God can't break His word. And because His word cannot change, the promise is likewise unchangeable. We who have run for our very lives to God have every reason to grab the promised hope with both hands and never let go. It's an unbreakable spiritual lifeline, reaching past all appearances right to the very presence of God.

— Hebrews 6:18–19 (The MESSAGE)

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- What is one thing you took away from last weekend's message?
- How are you managing the difficulties and disruptions of COVID-19?
- In what ways might this pandemic offer an opportunity for people to reconsider what happens beyond this life?
- Was there a time in your life when you believed in one of the 5 common misconceptions Daniel mentioned about the afterlife? If so, can you share about that?
- Paul mentions those who are enemies of the cross. What do you think he means by that? Why would someone be opposed to the cross that represents Christ's death on our behalf?
- Why do you think a lot of people are afraid to die?
- Why do you think many people are resistant to the idea that God has made a way for them to have eternal life?
- What is exciting to you about transitioning from this life to our eternal home with God?
- In what way is the symbolism of a seed being planted in the ground a good analogy for what happens to believers when they die (see 1 Corinthians 15:42–54)?
- How does a belief in a future resurrection add resilience and hope to your perspectives on life right now?