

## Tough Questions for God

### ***The Final Question: What's Next?***

*In Western Culture, death is not a pleasant topic. We don't want to talk about it; we turn our head; and we spend a fortune trying to look younger than we are ... as if that's going to forestall the inevitable. From the oldest culture, what happens after we take our final breath has been a topic of speculation. Is there a semblance of life on the other side of the final curtain? Or is it just darkness and eternal rest? This week, we're going to turn to the Bible to see what God has to say about what happens next.*

Ecclesiastes 3:18–21

1. Every \_\_\_\_\_ dies.
2. Humans come equipped with a \_\_\_\_\_.

#### ***There are three biblical fates of the soul:***

- (1) Sheol: the place of the dead
- (2) Heaven: Presence of God
- (3) Hell: Absence of God

#### ***There are two biblical views about life after death for faithful disciples of Jesus:***

3. Our souls \_\_\_\_\_ until the final judgment.  
1 Thessalonians 4:13–18
4. A disciple's \_\_\_\_\_ breath on earth is their \_\_\_\_\_ breath in heaven.  
Luke 23:42-43; Philippians 1:21–24
5. One thing is certain: followers of Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ .  
John 3:16
6. Life eternal begins \_\_\_\_\_ .

## Digging Deeper and Going Further

Read 1 Corinthians 15:12-19, 58. This passage was written to a church that had been losing members to death, some at the hands of the Roman government and some because of natural causes. But like all of us, they too wanted to know if there was anything after this life. In this study, we'll explore that question further.

1. What fears about death do you have?

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2. According to the passage above, what happens after a Christian dies?

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3. Read Luke 23:32-43. According to Jesus, what happens after a Christian dies?

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4. Which of the two biblical views about life after death do you lean toward? Why?

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5. Read Matthew 7:14; 22:14; and 7:21. What is the mark of a faithful disciple of Jesus?

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6. In 1 Corinthians 15:58, what does the writer say is a fit response to eternal life?

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7. Read Philippians 1:21-24. The writer does not seem to fear death ... and in fact, doesn't seem to value life for the sake of life. Why do you think this is?

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