

# Death & the Intermediate State

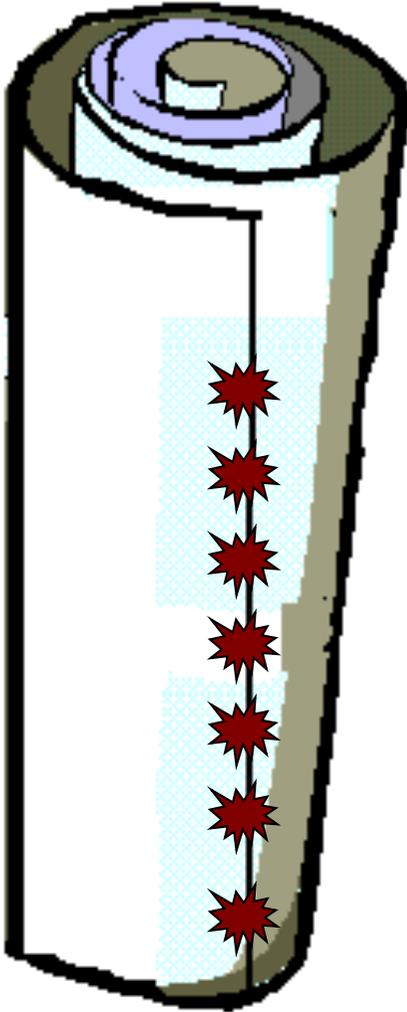


*A Study of the Last Things*



**Many  
ignore  
prophecy  
today and  
put their  
head in the  
sand.**

# Why Study the Afterlife?



OK, good job, folks.  
We are getting to  
some actionable  
items here. Let's  
study group this.

Dark gray

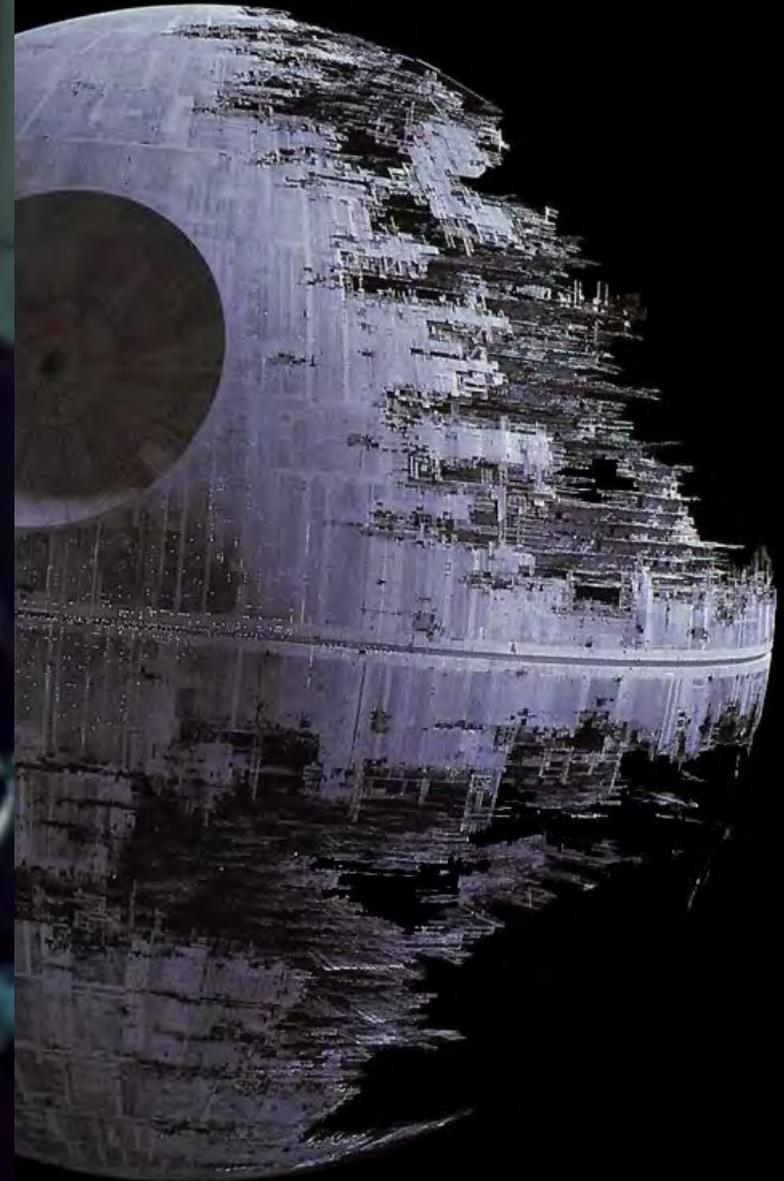


~~Really bad star~~

~~Nasty star~~

Death star

# Death Star



# A New Hotel in Baku, Azerbaijan



The Death Star  
Hotel



# Death

For Your Small Group:

**Most people don't like to think or talk about death. Why not?**

# Death is Real

- **Everyone dies eventually (by old age, accident, war, murder, natural disaster, famine, etc.)**
- **No one can avoid one's own death**



"...man is destined to die once,  
and after that to face judgment"  
(Hebrews 9:27)

# Types of Death

## Three Types of Death:

1. Physical Death:  
**Separation** of the soul from the body (Gen. 35:18-19; Eccl. 12:7; James 2:26)
2. Spiritual Death:  
**Separation** of the person from God (Eph. 2:1-2)
3. Second Death (Eternal Death)  
**Separation** from the presence of God in an endless period of punishment (Rev. 20:14; 21:8)

# Physical Death

## Natural or Unnatural?



"Though death is both real and inevitable, it is **unnatural**. When God created the heavens and the earth, death was not part of it. And that is why, eventually, death will be finally conquered (1 Cor. 15:26)."

# Physical Death

## Natural or Unnatural?

"Physical death was **not an original part** of the human condition. It is something foreign and hostile. Paul pictures it as an enemy (1 Cor. 15:26)"



# Physical Death

## Natural or Unnatural?

"We must still remember that death is **not natural**, it is not right; and in a world created by God, it is something that ought not to be. It is an enemy, something that Christ will finally destroy (1 Cor. 15:26)"





**Oh death!**

**Death is not natural because it is the penalty for sin and needs to be destroyed.**

**"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord"**

**(Rom. 6:23)**

**"The last enemy to be destroyed is death"**

**(1 Cor. 15:26)**

**Where is thy sting?**

# Responses to Death

## Death to the Unsaved = Fear:

- **Death is a curse, penalty, & enemy.**
- **They will experience physical, spiritual, and eternal death for not believing in Christ as their Savior.**
- **Therefore, the penalty for sin is upon them in these three areas of death (Rom. 6:23).**

# Reponses to Death

## Death of the Believer



- The believer still dies physically, but its curse is gone because Christ himself become a curse for us by dying on the cross (Gal. 3:13).
- While believers still die physically, they do not experience spiritual and eternal death.

# Bicentennial Man (1998)



# Reponses to Death

*How should we think of our own death?*



- We do not fear our own death because when we die, our spirit will be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8).
- Scripture also assures us that death cannot separate us from the love of God in Jesus Christ (Rom. 8:38-39).

# Reponses to Death

*How should we think of the death of Christian friends and relatives?*



- We may mourn for them in sorrow.
- However, at the same time we have hope and joy because they will be with the Lord (2 Cor. 5:8) and they will live with the Lord (1 Thess. 5:10).

# Reponses to Death

*How should we think of the death of unbelievers?*

Our sorrow will be very deep because they will go through spiritual and eternal death forever.





# Summary

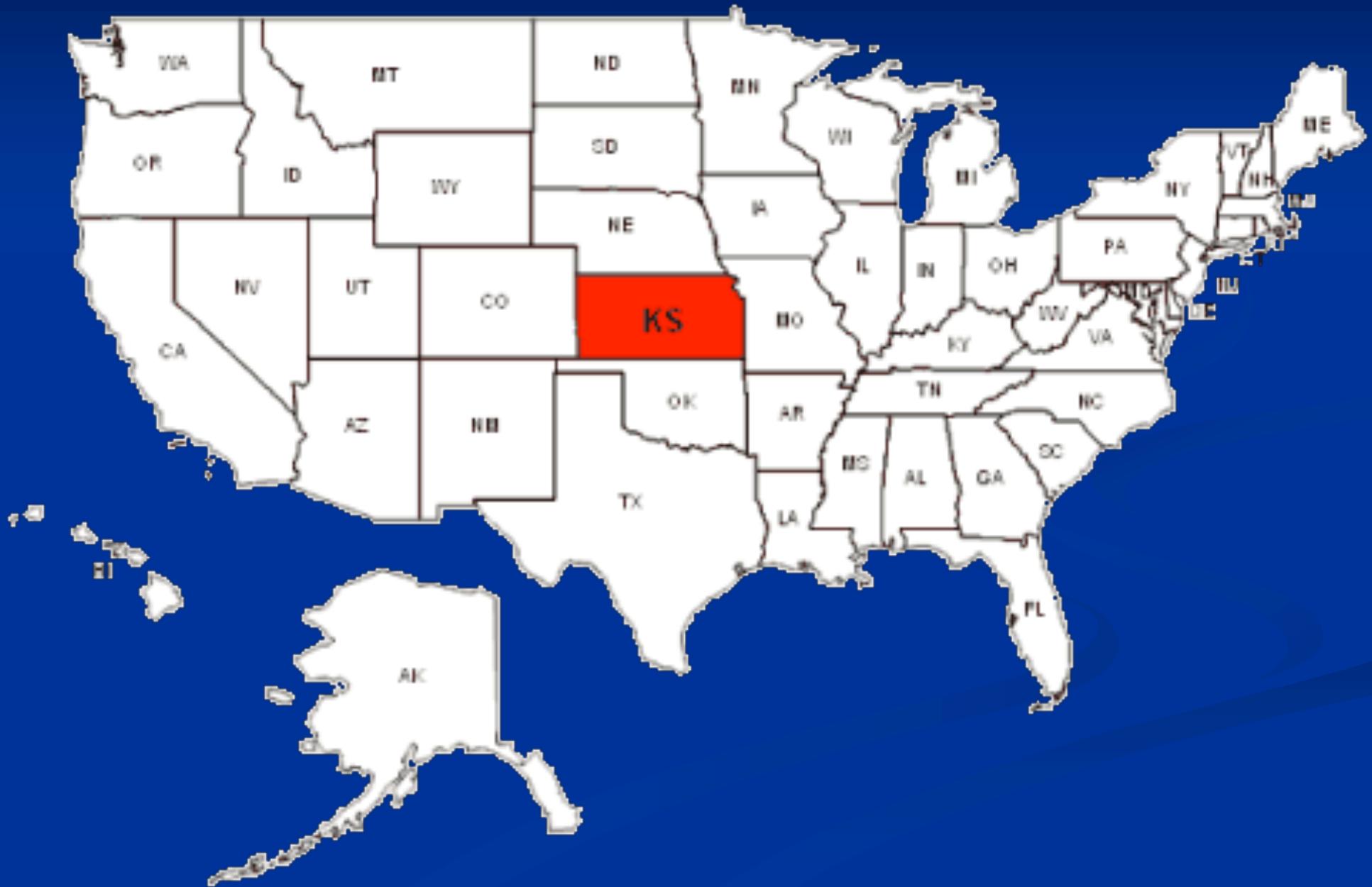
## For Believers...

- Our penalty for sin was paid by Jesus Christ.
- We should not fear death though we will die someday.
- We will be with our Lord Jesus when we die.
- Death is but an entrance into a better mode of life.

## Death is...

- unnatural
- not God's intention
- penalty for sin
- not extinction

# The Intermediate State



# The Intermediate State

*What does it mean?*

The intermediate state debate is **not about the body** since it "suffers dissolution into its component chemical elements... As a result the body goes back to the dust from whence it came, until the resurrection (Gen. 2:7; 3:19; Eccles. 3:20)" (Hoyt, 34)



*It's about the soul and spirit!*

# The Intermediate State

*Spirit of the  
Person*

*Death of  
the Body*

*Resurrection  
of the Body*

**"The condition of humans between their death  
and the resurrection" – Millard Erickson**

# The Intermediate State

The early Catholic church held that the intermediate state had four distinct areas:

1. Hades: the realm of the dead with a separate place for the evil and righteous.
2. Purgatory. Those who would enter heaven could be cleansed ("purged") of their remaining sins through suffering.



# The Intermediate State

3. Limbus Patrum: OT saints who waited for Christ's death and resurrection to take them to heaven
4. Limbus Infantum: Souls of all infants who died without being baptized



# The Intermediate State

The Importance  
of this Doctrine

*We must have  
practical  
answers for  
bereaved people  
on this question*



# The Transfer of Paradise

Eph. 4:8-10

"...today you will be with me in paradise."

Luke 23:43 2 Cor. 12:2, 4

"That is why the Scriptures say, 'When he ascended to the heights, he led a crowd of captives and gave gifts to his people.'  
<sup>9</sup>Notice that it says 'he ascended.' This clearly means that Christ also descended to our lowly world. <sup>10</sup>And the same one who descended is the one who ascended higher than all the heavens, so that he might fill the entire universe with himself."

"I was caught up to the third heaven...I was caught up to paradise"

S  
H  
E  
O  
L

Paradise

HADES



"Christ suffered for our sins once for all time. He never sinned, but he died for sinners to bring you safely home to God. He suffered physical death, but he was raised to life in the Spirit."

<sup>19</sup>So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— <sup>20</sup>those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood."

1 Pet.  
3:18-20

Luke 16:26

"...there is a great chasm separating us. No one can cross over to you from here, and no one can cross over to us from there."

"Then death and [Hades] were thrown into the lake of fire... <sup>15</sup>And anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire."

# The Intermediate State

## Erroneous Views:

### Soul Sleep

- Holds that the soul, during a time period between death and resurrection, exists in a state of unconsciousness or sleep.
- This view denies a separate existence at death for the soul of man and that the sleep of the physical body will one day "wake up" in the resurrection.



# The Intermediate State

Soul Sleep misunderstands passages where the imagery of sleep refers to death:

1. Stephen's death is described as sleep (Acts 7:60)
2. Paul noted that David fell asleep after serving God's purpose (Acts 13:36)
3. Paul uses the same imagery repeatedly (1 Cor. 15:6, 18, 20, 51; 1 Thess. 4:13-15)
4. Jesus used the same imagery for Lazarus (John 11:11, 14)

# The Intermediate State

## The Issue:

**Soul Sleep misinterprets Scripture.  
Death is often depicted as sleep in the  
NT, but it is clear that we are dealing  
with a word that speaks of appearance  
and not fact.**



# The Intermediate State

## **2 Corinthians 5:6-8 (NIV)**

**Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. We live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.**

## **Philippians 1:21-23 (NIV)**

**For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. If I am to go on living in the body, this will mean fruitful labor for me. Yet what shall I choose? I do not know! I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far;**

# The Intermediate State

**Based on Scripture, we conclude that at death, both the saved and unsaved continue their existence (Luke 16:19-31).**

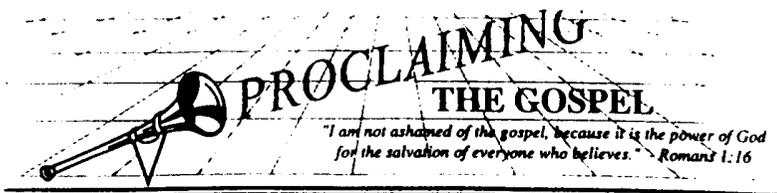
**There is not a cessation of the being, but rather a separation of body and soul: the believer immediately into Christ's presence and the unbeliever to a place of punishment.**



# The Intermediate State

## Purgatory

- Catholics teach that immediately upon death, the individual's eternal status is determined and the soul becomes aware of God's judgment upon it.
- The soul is "moved of its own accord to hasten either to Heaven, or Hell, or Purgatory, according to its deserts."



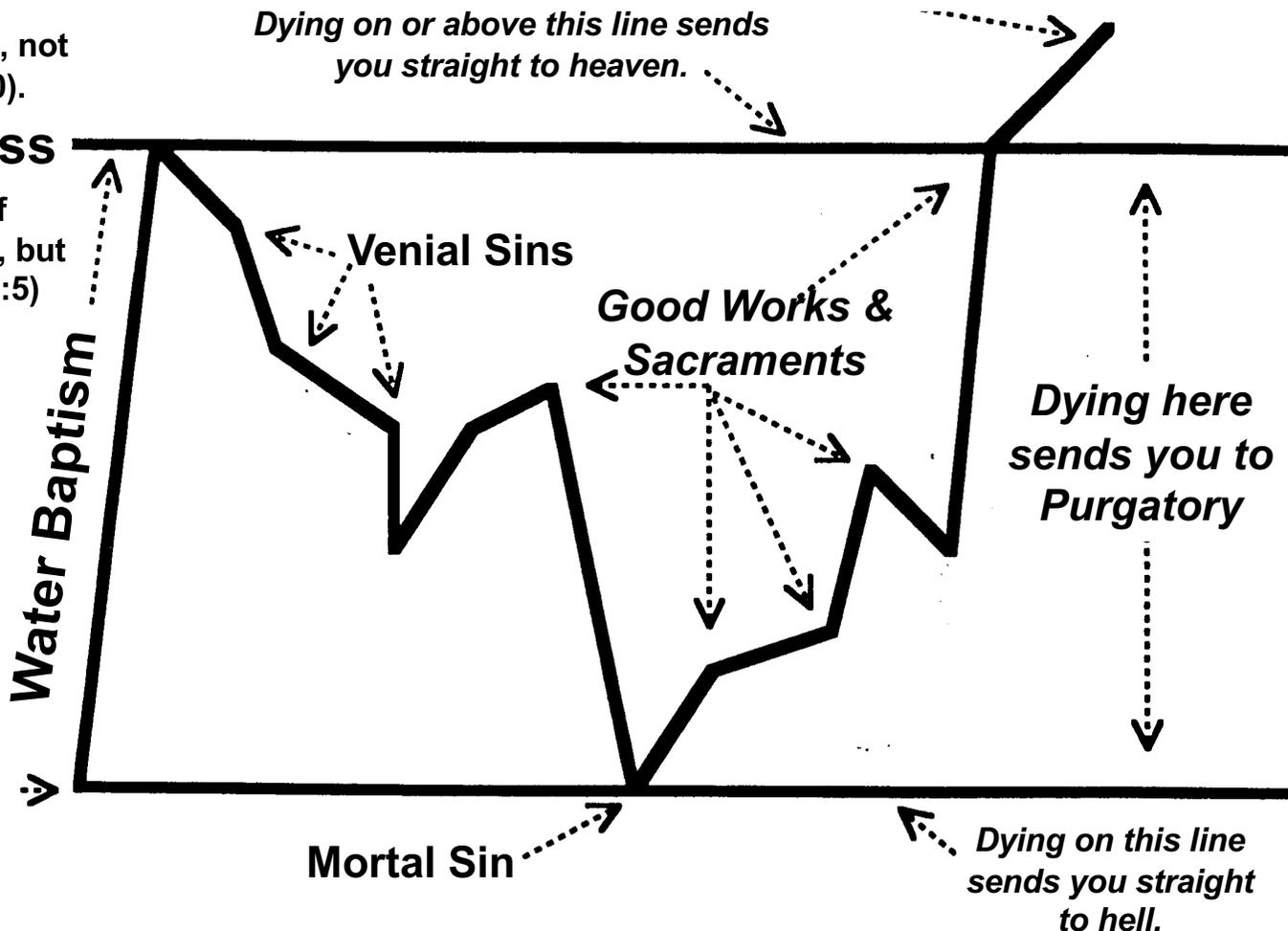
PO Box 940871, Plano, TX 75094 by Mike Gendron

*Those that die with more merit than is necessary for heaven have their extra merit credited to the Vatican treasury. This extra merit is then dispensed through indulgences and Masses to those suffering in Purgatory.*

There is no one righteous, not even one (Romans 3:10).

## Self Righteousness

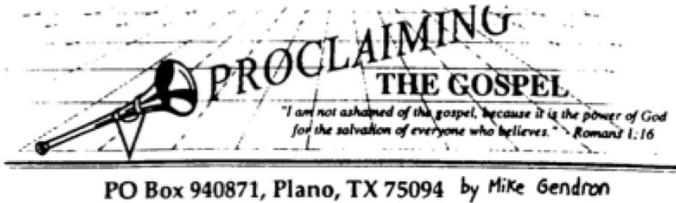
He saved us not because of righteous things we have done, but because of his mercy (Titus 3:5)



**A Graphic View of Justification in the Roman Catholic Church**

# The Scriptural View of Justification

174c



*Dying with God's  
righteousness qualifies  
you for heaven  
(John 5:24)*

**Glorification**

**Sanctification**

**Righteousness of God**

Philippians 3:9  
Romans 5:17  
2 Corinthians 5:21

**Justified**

*Justification is a permanent verdict by God that declares a sinner righteous because of his faith in Christ. It enables God to continue to see the sinner as if he were righteous even if he continues to sin. The ground of justification is the righteousness of Christ and therefore sin or good works has no effect on it. A person either has the righteousness of God and is destined for heaven, or he is condemned and is destined to hell. The righteousness of God is given as a gift to those who trust in God's one and only provision for their sin: that Jesus paid the full and complete punishment by dying in their place. See Romans 3:21-26; 4:2-9 and Ephesians 2:1-10.*

**Faith in Christ**

**Destined for Hell  
Spiritually Dead**

*Dying without trusting  
Christ sends you to hell  
(John 12:48)*

**A Graphic View of Justification According to Scripture**

# The Intermediate State

Purgatory is taught as a state of temporary punishment for those who are not entirely free from sins or have not yet fully paid for their venial sins. The forgiveness of such venial sins can be accomplished through three different ways:

1. Unconditional forgiveness by God
2. Suffering and the performance of penitential works
3. Contrition



**Catholics believe Jesus told St. Gertrude the Great that this prayer releases 1000 souls from Purgatory each time:**

***"Eternal Father, I offer Thee the most precious blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the holy souls in Purgatory. Amen."***

# The Intermediate State

**Protestants reject Purgatory because this theory appeals mainly to the Apocrypha, which Protestants do not accept as Canonical.**

**It also implies a salvation attainable by works, which is contrary to Scripture.**

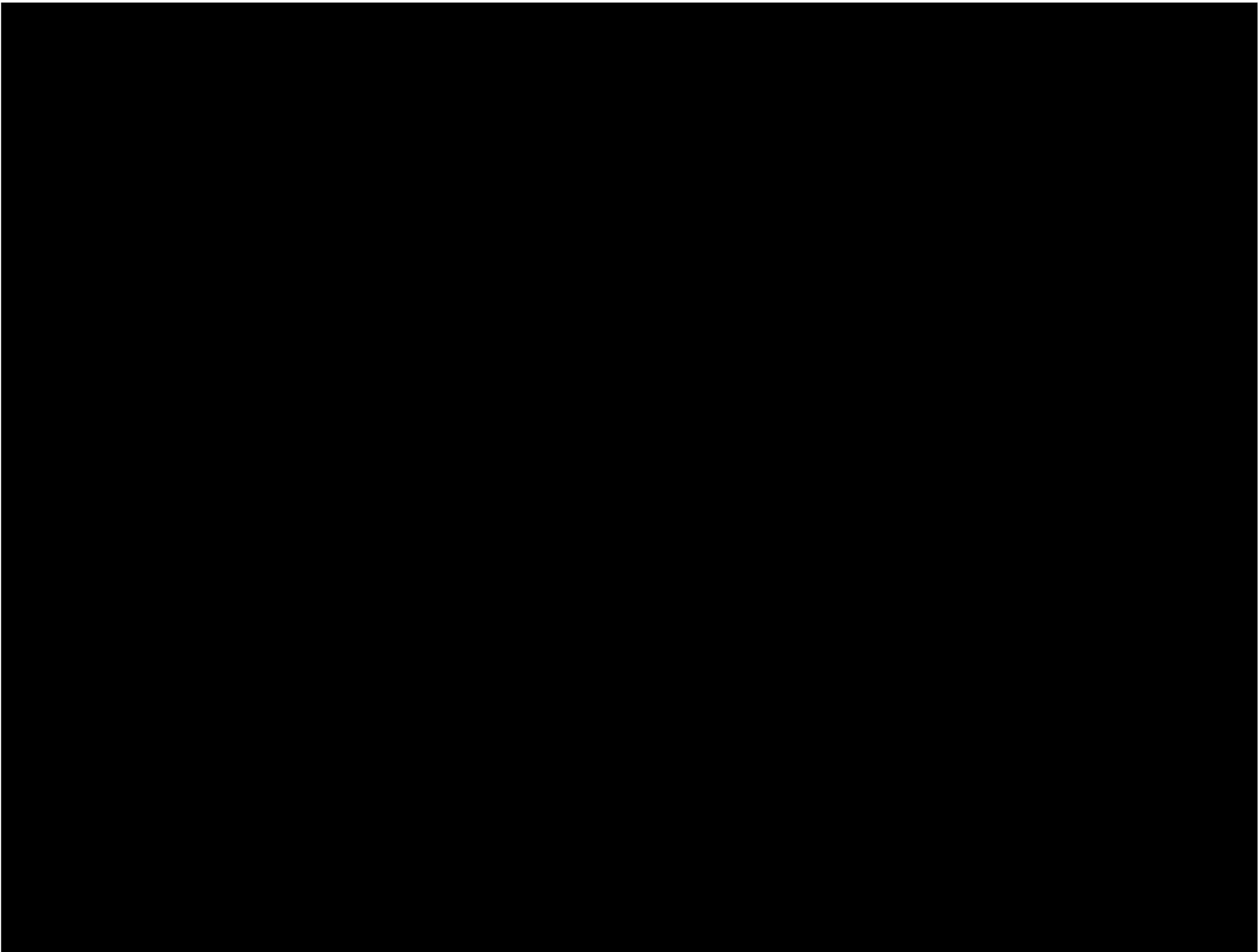
# The Intermediate State

## Instantaneous Resurrection

- This is a more novel and creative concept of recent years.
- This teaches that immediately upon death, the believer receives the resurrection body.
- W.D. Davies holds that Paul had two different concepts of the resurrection: one in 1 Corinthians 15 and another in 2 Corinthians 5.
- By 2 Corinthians 5, Paul no longer believed in an intermediate state but rather in an immediate transition into the final state.

# The Intermediate State

- 1. Nothing can separate the believer from the Lord Jesus Christ, not even death (Rom. 8:38-39)**
- 2. Believers need not fear death because Jesus, who overcame death, is with us (Ps. 23:4)**
- 3. Death brings believers immediately into the presence of Christ. One is either living in the physical body or has left it, going into Christ's presence. There are only two states of being mentioned here (2 Cor. 5:6-8)**



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