

Individual Eschatology, By James Moriello, Firm Foundation Christian Church, Woonsocket, 2016

Individual Eschatology, Trending Bible Study, 1/1/16

Q1: Is there a sense in which the Christian will be judged after death? (Hebrews 9:27 seems to teach that there is.)

A1: Life and judgment are through the Son (John 5:24-30).

1. The basis of God's judgment is what one has decided about Jesus Christ (John 3:16-18).
2. The believer is judged to be worthy of entrance into heaven on the basis of God's work, specifically Christ's salvation work (2 Corinthians 5:21).
3. The spirit of the believer passes into heaven where God is present at the point of death of the body (Luke 23:43; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:21-23).
4. Bodily resurrection is yet future. That occurs at Jesus' Second Coming (Matthew 25:31-46; Cf. 1 Corinthians Chapter 15).
5. The final judgment is the third stage of judgment. For the believer, this is entrance into the eternal state in God's presence (Revelation 21:1 and following). For the unbeliever, this is entrance into the eternal state out of God's presence where there is torment and hell fire (Revelation 20:10-15; Cf. Mark 9:43-48).

Q2: Is there a conscious existence and/or awareness of earthly events after death?

A2: Yes. Luke 16:19-31 and Revelation 6:9-11 clearly teach that there is.

Q3: What is meant by the term "positional state"?

A3: One's positional state depends upon the existence of faith and proper object of faith (Romans 1:17).

1. Believers are sealed by God (Ephesians 1:13), acquitted before God (Romans 8:1), have their sins removed by God (Psalm 103:12), and have their sins forgiven and forgotten (Isaiah 43:25).
2. The unbeliever is judged for rejecting Jesus, by being judged on the basis of works, which results in the second death (John 5:45; Galatians 2:16; Revelation 20:11-15).

Q4: Will the works of believers be remembered and rewarded in heaven?

A4: Yes. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15 teaches this.

1. The works are not for salvation, for the believer is already positionally righteous before God. There cannot be a Purgatory or Investigative Judgment, because those concepts are contradicted by the clearer statements of John 5:24 and Luke 16:25-26.
2. At least 4 crowns are mentioned in the Bible in the context of heavenly rewards, incorruptible (1 Corinthians 9:25), righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8), Life (James 1:12; Revelation 2:10), and glory (1 Peter 5:4). Credit goes to God (Revelation 4:10-11).