

WAITING FOR THE SECOND COMING

Romans 8:35-39

2 Corinthians 5:1-10

Awareness

Before listening, reflect:

- Why do you think books and movies about near death experiences and testimonies about heaven are popular? Have they ever interested you? Why or why not?
- With respect to life after death, have you ever heard the term “intermediate state”? What is its definition or if you had to guess, what would you guess it is?

When we experience the loss of a loved one, our beliefs about the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection of the body give us hope. Often we seek comfort in thinking about what our deceased loved one is doing right now while we’re grieving. Theologians call this time between death and the Second coming the intermediate state. Our curiosities about this time contributes to the popularity of books and movies describing near death experiences and reports about what heaven is like. The Bible may not provide many specifics on the intermediate state but it does provide profound assurances.

Listen: [*Waiting for the Second Coming*](#)

Reflection

After listening, consider:

- The majority of Christians believe that the soul of a believer dwells with God immediately after death. However, there are other theories about the intermediate state. Consider some of the alternate theories that hosts Dave Bast and Scott Hoezee mention in the first segment of the program (materialist/extinctionist, soul sleep, purgatory, universalism). Where have you heard them before or seen evidence of them in pop culture?
- Why is it comforting to know, and be assured, that believers spend their intermediate state (the time between death and Christ’s return) with God?
- In segment two, Scott says that your “spiritual address” right now on earth is *IN CHRIST* and death doesn’t change that address. What does that mean to you?
- Would you feel comfortable talking about heaven and life after death with someone who had questions? Why or why not? If you feel ill-prepared, what else do you feel like you need to know?

Related Passages

- **John 11:1-44**
- **Matthew 22:23-33/Mark 12:18-27**

- **Matthew 17:1-8**
- **Luke 16:19-31**
- **Philippians 1:21-22**
- **Revelation 21:1-5**

Conclusion

What do you imagine is present when home is as it should be? Consider this quote from C.S. Lewis' book *The Last Battle*:

I have come home at last! This is my real country! I belong here. This is the land I have been looking for all my life, though I never knew it till now. The reason why we loved the old Narnia is that it sometimes looked a little like this...Come further up, come further in!"

Reflect on the idea that the reason we love our worldly home is because it sometimes looks a little like heaven. How does that affect your perspective on life after death? Write down your thoughts, reflections, and reactions.

<https://groundworkonline.com/episodes/waiting-for-the-second-coming>

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