

ESCHATOLOGICAL ESSENTIALS 1 COR. 15:1-11, 12; 1TIM.3:16

Eschatology = last (things)

(ἔσχατος) + ology = the study of the last things

Essentials – what are they?

What is the core? What are the essentials?

Essential to being saved? Essential to the gospel / gospel story. Essential for the gospel to be good news?

1. The immortality of the soul

Soul =

- The person
- The individual
- The essence of me → who I am!

2. The resurrection of the body

Daniel 12:1 And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people: and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time: and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. **Daniel 12:2** And many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt. **Daniel 12:3** And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

John 5:28 Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, **John 5:29** And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation.

John 11:23 Jesus saith unto her, **Thy brother shall rise again.** **John 11:24** Martha saith unto him, I know that he shall rise again in the resurrection at the last day. **John 11:25** Jesus said unto her, **I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live: John 11:26** And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall **never** die. Believest thou this? **John 11:27** She saith unto him, Yea, Lord: I believe that thou art the Christ, the Son of God, which should come into the world.

Acts 17:29 Forasmuch then as we are the offspring of God, we ought not to think that the Godhead is like unto gold, or silver, or stone, graven by art and man's device. **Acts 17:30** And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: **Acts 17:31** **Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. Acts 17:32** And when they heard of the resurrection of the dead, **some** mocked: and **others** said, We will hear thee again of this matter. **Acts 17:33** So Paul departed from among them. **Acts 17:34** **Howbeit certain men** clave unto him, and believed: among the which was Dionysius the Areopagite, and a woman named Damaris, and others with them.

Most religions teach some kind of immortality:

Atheism: the extinction of you. No distinction between the body and the soul. When the body dies you end!

Pantheism: The “soul” is immortal but will eventually become part of “god” and become undifferentiated. We will be “lost in god!”

Reincarnation: lower / higher → eventually finding some sort of bliss

Greeks +++: immortality of the soul in a shadowy place. The body is the prison house of the soul

Christianity: an **embodied existence!** Looking forward to a glorified body.

Philippians 3:20-21

For our **conversation** (τὸ πολίτευμα) is in heaven;
from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ:

Who shall change **our vile body** (τὸ σῶμα τῆς ταπεινώσεως ἡμῶν),
that it may be fashioned like unto **his glorious body** (τῷ σώματι τῆς δόξης αὐτοῦ),
according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself.

3. An intermediate state between death and the resurrection

This is one of the more difficult issues since we have only limited information.

Let us look at what we know:

➤ We (almost) all die physically

➤ Our bodies sleep

1 Thessalonians 4:13 But I would not have you to be ignorant, brethren, **concerning them which are asleep**, that ye sorrow not, even as others which have no hope.

1 Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which **sleep in Jesus** will God bring with him.

1 Thessalonians 4:15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are **asleep**.

1 Corinthians 15:51 Behold, I shew you a mystery; **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed**,

➤ Our spirit & soul (the immaterial parts) **immediately** go to be with the Lord

Luke 23:43 And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, **To day shalt thou be with me in paradise**.

Philippians 1:21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. **Philippians 1:22** But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. **Philippians 1:23** For I am in a strait betwixt two, **having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:**

2 Corinthians 5:6 Therefore we are always confident, knowing that, **whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord: 2 Corinthians 5:7** (For we walk by faith, not by sight:) **2 Corinthians 5:8** We are confident, I say, and willing rather **to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord**.

➤ This is **not** our final state / condition **but** **only** an intermediate state

➤ The resurrection of the body in its glorious form is the final & permanent state → body, soul, & spirit united!

➤ In this state, we are known & knowable **but not yet** complete

4. Divine judgment by God

This will be:

- Final
- Ultimate

➤ **For all (including Christians)**

Psalm 96:13 Before the LORD: for he cometh, for he cometh to judge the earth: he shall judge the world with righteousness, and the people with his truth.

Romans 14:10 But why dost thou judge thy brother? or why dost thou set at nought thy brother? **for we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.** **Romans 14:11** For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. **Romans 14:12** **So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:10 For we must **all** appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

Revelation 15:3 And they sing the song of Moses the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, Great and marvellous are thy works, Lord God Almighty; just and true are thy ways, thou King of saints. **Revelation 15:4** Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.

Revelation 16:4 And the third angel poured out his vial upon the rivers and fountains of waters; and they became blood. **Revelation 16:5** And I heard the angel of the waters say, Thou art righteous, O Lord, which art, and wast, and shalt be, because thou hast judged thus. **Revelation 16:6** For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and thou hast given them blood to drink; for they are worthy. **Revelation 16:7** And I heard another out of the altar say, **Even so, Lord God Almighty, true and righteous are thy judgments.**

Revelation 20:11 And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. **Revelation 20:12** And I saw the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened: and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works.

Revelation 20:13 And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. **Revelation 20:14** And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. **Revelation 20:15** And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire.

Remember:

- **Things will be sorted out**
- **There will be a distinction between right & wrong, truth & error, good & evil**
- **Justice shall prevail!**

5. The Second Coming of Christ

Matthew 24:29 Immediately **after** the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken: **Matthew 24:30** And then shall appear the sign of the Son of man in heaven: and then shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, **and they shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.**

Acts 1:9 And when he had spoken these things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. **Acts 1:10** And while they looked stedfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; **Acts 1:11** Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? **this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.**

Revelation 1:7 Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen.

6. Heaven, hell, and eternity

John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should **not** perish, **but** have everlasting life.

John 3:18 He that believeth on him is **not** condemned: but he that believeth **not** is condemned **already**, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

John 3:36 He that believeth on the Son **hath** everlasting life: and he that believeth **not** the Son **shall not see** life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.

John 5:24 Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that heareth my word, and believeth on him that sent me, **hath** everlasting life, and shall **not** come into condemnation; **but** is passed from death unto life.