

# **Beyond the End**

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## I. Introduction.

A. Text: II Corinthians 4:16-5:5.

B. Subject: life after death.

C. Three categories of answers today:

1. Nothing happens at all
2. Anything can happen.
3. The Christian answer: God conquered death in Jesus.

## II. There are reasons for hope as we have grace and as we look to the future.

A. Our inner nature is being renewed daily despite our outer nature fading.

1. The inner man is the unique combination of soul and spirit that sets man apart from the animals.
2. We are being inwardly prepared for something to come.

B. Our slight momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory.

1. Compared to what is coming the affliction is light. (Romans 8)
2. No trial is without significance.

C. There are important things that are unseen. God's word is the one reliable thing in an unreliable universe.

## III. Our future hope.

A. Paul is talking about the resurrected body. (I Corinthians 15)

B. God had in mind that we would be a permanent dwelling place for Him.

C. The resurrection body awaits the Christian—he will be more clothed and swallowed up by life.

D. Explanations for the bodies in the grave.

1. Some say we are disembodied temporarily.
2. There is a soul sleep until the resurrected body is received.

3. God gives us an intermediate body until the resurrected body is received, but there is no Scripture to support this.

4. When we leave the present body, we leave time.

E. The believer looks forward to the return of the Lord. (I Thessalonians 4)

**Application questions:**

1. Why does the believer in Christ have hope beyond the grave?

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2. Which explanation did you find most convincing concerning what immediately happens when the believer dies? Explain.

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3. How can a believer find comfort in trials in light of his eternal destiny? How does this encourage you personally?

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