

What happens to people? (Personal eschatology)

Salvation for those who believe: Through grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone.

⁸ For **by grace you have been saved through faith**. And this is not your own doing; it is the gift of God,
⁹ not a result of works, so that no one may boast. Ephesians 2:8–9 (ESV)

- People are not saved by works.
- Even people who haven't heard the Gospel are unsaved. (Romans 1)

Death: Appointed for every person to die.

²⁷ And just as **it is appointed for man to die once**, and after that comes judgment, ²⁸ so Christ, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, will appear a second time, not to deal with sin but to save those who are eagerly waiting for him. Hebrews 9:27–28 (ESV)

- Death is the unnatural separation of the material and immaterial parts of people.

Resurrection: Resurrection from the dead for all people.

⁴ ...Also I saw the souls of those who had been beheaded for the testimony of Jesus...**They came to life and reigned with Christ for a thousand years.** ⁵ **The rest of the dead** did not come to life until the thousand years were ended. This is the **first resurrection**. - Revelation 20:4–5 (ESV)

Great White Throne Judgment: for salvation

¹¹ Then I saw **a great white throne** and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life. **And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done.** ¹⁵ **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life**, he was thrown into the lake of fire. - Revelation 20:11–12, 15 (ESV)

Bema Seat Judgement: for the reward of believers

¹⁰ Why do you pass judgment on your brother? Or you, why do you despise your brother? For we will all stand before **the judgment seat (Bema) of God**; ¹¹ for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God." ¹² So then **each of us will give an account of himself to God**. Romans 14:10–12 (ESV)

¹² Now if anyone builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw— ¹³ each one's work will become manifest, for **the Day will disclose it**, because it will be revealed by fire, and the fire will test what sort of work each one has done. ¹⁴ If the work that anyone has built on the foundation survives, **he will receive a reward**. -1 Corinthians 3:12–14 (ESV)

Eternal joy with God in a resurrected body in the new heavens and new earth:

¹ Then I saw a **new heaven and a new earth**, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, **“Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man.** He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God. ⁴ He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.” - Revelation 21:1–4 (ESV)

Eternal punishment and separation from God:

¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. ¹⁵ And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, **he was thrown into the lake of fire.** - Revelation 20:14–15 (ESV)

⁴² “Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were hung around his neck and he were thrown into the sea. ⁴³ And if your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life crippled than with two hands to go to hell, **to the unquenchable fire.** ⁴⁵ And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter life lame than with two feet to be thrown into hell. ⁴⁷ And if your eye causes you to sin, tear it out. It is better for you to enter the kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into hell, ⁴⁸ **‘where their worm does not die and the fire is not quenched.’** - Mark 9:42–48 (ESV)

1. “The doctrine of the final judgment satisfies our inward sense of a need for justice in the world.”
2. “The doctrine of the final judgment enables us to forgive others freely.”
3. “The doctrine of the final judgment provides a motive for righteous living.”
4. “The doctrine of the final judgment provides great motive for evangelism.”

-Wayne Grudem, Systematic Theology, 1147-48.

