

Court Farm Evangelical Church

The Vanity of Fleeting Confidence

Part 4 – Saints and Sinners in Eternity

(Flesh and blood do not inherit the Kingdom of God)

By Guy Kasongo

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tzJmuRd5oh0&pp=ygUhdChlIHZhbml0eSBvZiBmbGVldGUuZyBjb25maWRlbnNI>



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Question: Will sinners be punished eternally?

If the answer to this question is no, then how can we be sure that we are saved, and that we have eternal life?

People supporting the doctrine of temporary punishment believe that:

- The sinner is annihilated at physical death and there is no resurrection
- For some others, the dead sinner will be raised and judged at the Great White Throne, cast into the lake of fire, burned up, consumed i.e. annihilated.
- They support the idea of *conditional immortality* i.e. there' is no continuous existence of the soul, except for the believers in Christ.

'Christian' conditionalism

'Christian' conditionalism has been taught by several theologians throughout history, including figure Martin Luther.

- **'Christian' mortalism-** is the belief that the human soul is not naturally immortal, and the idea that the soul is "sleeping" after death until the Resurrection of the Dead and the Last Judgment. 'Christian' mortalism takes two main forms that support 'soul sleeping': *thnetopsychism and psychopannychism* or *psychosomnolence*. The two doctrines are difficult to distinguish.
- **Psychopannychism-** is the doctrine that the soul falls asleep at death and does not wake until the resurrection of the body.
- **Thnetopsychism** - the doctrine that the soul dies with the body and that both are to be called back to life on the Day of Judgement.

The Bible!!!

- In the Old Testament – OWLAM (Hebrew)

Daniel 12:2

“And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting <owlam> life, some to shame and everlasting <owlam> contempt.”

Owlam means: vanishing point, time out of mind (past or future), lasting, long time, perpetual, forever, always, continuous existence, everlasting, indefinite or unending future, eternity.

The Bible!!!

- In the New Testament – *AIONIOS* (Greek)

Matthew 25:41,46 “Then He will also say to those on the left hand, ‘Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting <aionios> fire prepared for the devil and his angels [...] 46 And these will go away into everlasting <aionios> punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.’”

Romans 16:26 “But now made manifest, and by the prophetic Scriptures made known to all nations, according to the commandment of the everlasting <aionios> God, for obedience to the faith”.

Revelation 14:6 “ Then I saw another angel flying in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting <aionios> gospel to preach to those who dwell on the earth—to every nation, tribe, tongue, and people”

Saints and sinner in eternity and with which body?

The question has always 'puzzled' even the believers.

1 Corinthians 15:35

“But someone will say, “How are the dead raised up? And with what body do they come?”

One of the main difficulties is to understand the various expressions the Bible uses in relation to the resurrection of the bodies – those expressions are not necessarily interchangeable or synonymous.

For example, the following expressions do not mean the same thing:

- Eternal life
- Immortality
- Incorruption

Saints and sinner in eternity and with which body?

- **Saints (Sinners repented)**



The transformation will occur as explained in 1 Corinthians 15:35-58.

And if Christ is in you, the body is dead because of sin, but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

Saints receive eternal life by accepting the free gift of salvation obtained by grace, through faith and repentance from sin on the sole merit of the precious blood of Jesus Christ that was shed on the Cross!

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51)

The saint's immortal body and soul will be transformed and made ready for the New Jerusalem!

Saints and sinner in eternity and with which body?

- **Sinners (Unrepented)**



The process is described in Revelation 20:13-14.

“We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed” (1 Corinthians 15:51)

The sinner’s body and soul will also be made ready for the Lake of Fire!

- Inescapable reality!

All will be changed to be made fit for eternity, either with God or without Him, by removing the corruptible dimension of our being

In Revelation 14:10-11, the Bible speaks of people being tormented with fire and brimstone and the smoke of their torment ascending forever and ever, and they have no rest day or night.

Finally!



**Flesh and blood
cannot inherit
the kingdom of
God
(1 Cor 15:50)**

PATRICK JACOB



Lord of the Water

One more problem!

1 Cor. 15:44 - Natural body v Spiritual body

The answer is found in verses 37-38:

What is sown or buried, is not the same body that shall be at the resurrection because of the change that will take place by the sovereign working of God.

Only those who were born of God will be changed unto entrance into New Jerusalem. John 1:12 gives a clear distinction about this supernatural birth.

“Unless one is born again (of God) he cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3)

It's a mystery how that will happen!

Incorruption means final victory over physical death!

Immortality means the soul is ready for eternity

Conclusion

Incorruption and immortality are the process by which all human beings will be made ready to face eternity - some to everlasting life, some to shame and everlasting contempt.

The body and soul of the saint will live in the New Jerusalem. The body and soul will be tormented in the lake of fire, the gehenna or hell.

For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your ancestors, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable through the living and

But as many as received Him, to them He gave the [a]right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name: 13 who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God. (John 1:12-13)

“The trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and WE shall be changed” (1 Cor. 15:52).

So when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: “Death is swallowed up in victory.” Oh Death, where is your sting? O Hades, where is your victory?” The sting of death is sin, and the strength of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ. Therefore, my beloved brethren, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.