

Afterlife

Christian beliefs about life after death are based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. Christians believe that Jesus' death and resurrection are part of God's divine plan for humankind. Through his death on the cross, Jesus pays the penalty for humankind's sin and humankind's relationship with God is restored.

"The Christian view of death is one of hope. Death is a step into life. It leads to a fuller experience of life eternal in heaven. It is not a terminus, but a transition to a richer life."

"The evidence for such a faith is based on the resurrection of Jesus Christ. In his continuing life after the first Easter Sunday, Jesus was recognisable and capable of normal functions. Yet he was not subject to natural laws, to pain or death. He had risen to life in a new dimension."

Article by Pat Goodland

The Catholic Church teaches that death is not the end. Death is seen as the gateway to eternal life. When someone dies, it is only their physical body that stops living.

The eternal part of a person, the soul, may go to Heaven if they have led a pure life and enter God's presence immediately.

Those souls with unforgiven sins will go to Purgatory, so that they can be purified and reach Heaven.

Alternatively, souls that have not achieved salvation go to Hell.

Complete the sentences below.

Heaven is:

- a state of complete and unlimited _____ that has no end. This happiness comes from being with _____ and seeing God face to face.

Purgatory is:

- a state or condition of _____ for one who dies in God's friendship (state of grace) but who still has sins or temporal punishment for which to atone. The faithful are encouraged to help the "poor souls" by their _____ and penances.

Hell is:

- a state of painful _____ from God.

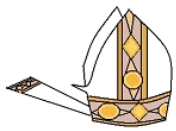
CLEANSING

GOD

HAPPINESS

PRAYERS

SEPARATION



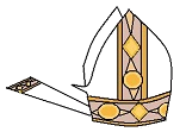
What does each of the following references have to say about death and life after death?

1 Corinthians 15:35-38	
1 Corinthians 15:42-44	
2 Corinthians 5:14-21	
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	

The Christian view of death is one of Hope.

What do the following references say about Christian Hope?

Matthew 24:13-14	
Romans 5:1-2	
1 Corinthians 15:51-58	
2 Corinthians 4:16-18	
Ephesians 1:13-14	
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	
Titus 2:11-14	
1 Peter 1:3-5	



Solutions to Worksheet CC-CT565: Afterlife

Heaven is:

- a state of complete and unlimited happiness that has no end. This happiness comes from being with God and seeing God face to face.

Purgatory is:

- a state or condition of cleansing for one who dies in God's friendship (state of grace) but who still has sins or temporal punishment for which to atone. The faithful are encouraged to help the "poor souls" by their prayers and penances.

Hell is:

- a state of painful separation from God.

1 Corinthians 15:35-38	"...How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come? Fool! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies..."
1 Corinthians 15:42-44	"... What is sown is perishable, what is raised is imperishable..."
2 Corinthians 5:14-21	"... And he died for all, so that those who live might live no longer for themselves, but for him who died and was raised for them..."
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	"... For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died..."

Matthew 24:13-14	"But anyone who endures to the end will be saved..."
Romans 5:1-2	"Therefore, since we are justified by faith... and we boast in our hope of sharing the glory of God."
1 Corinthians 15:51-58	"Listen, I will tell you a mystery! We will not all die, but we will all be changed..."
2 Corinthians 4:16-18	"So we do not lose heart. Even though our outer nature is wasting away, our inner nature is being renewed day by day... but what cannot be seen is eternal."
Ephesians 1:13-14	"In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit..."
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18	"... For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have died..."
Titus 2:11-14	"For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation to all..."
1 Peter 1:3-5	"By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead..."