

Second London Baptist Confession Chapter 31:
The State of Humanity After Death and the Resurrection of the Dead

- Division 1: The Foundations of Christian Thought (chs. 1-8)
- Division 2: Experimental Religion – Salvation Applied (chs. 9-20)
- Division 3: The Divine Institutions (chs. 21-30)
- Division 4: The Word to Come (chs. 31, 32)

I. The Intermediate State (Par. 1)

-Distinction Between Body and Soul: *“The bodies of those who have died return to dust and undergo destruction. But their souls neither die nor sleep, because they have an immortal character, and immediately return to God who gave them.”* (Gen. 3:19; Ecc. 12:7; James 2:26)

-Distinction Between the Righteous and the Wicked: *“The souls of the righteous are then made perfect in holiness and are received into paradise. There they are with Christ and behold the face of God in light and glory while they wait for the full redemption of their bodies.”* (Luke 23:43; 2 Cor. 5:2-4, 6-9; Phil. 1:23; Heb. 12:23; Rev. 6:9-11)

“The souls of the wicked are thrown into hell, where they remain in torment and utter darkness, reserved for the judgment of the great day.” (Ps. 9:17; Luke 16:22, 23; 2 Pet. 2:9)

“The Scripture recognizes no place other than these two for souls separated from their bodies.”

II. The Resurrection of the Dead (Pars. 2, 3)

-Fact of the Change: For Those Found Alive: Par. 2: *“At the last day, those saints who are found alive will not sleep but will be changed.”* (1 Cor. 15:50-53; 1 Thess. 4:13-17); For Those Already Dead: Par. 2: *“All the dead will be raised up...”* (John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15)

-Nature of the Change: Par. 2: *“All the dead will be raised up with the very same bodies, not different ones, though they will have different qualities.”* (1 Cor. 15:35-44) Spiritual does not equal non-material (Luke 24:39; 1 Cor. 2:14, 15; 15:50-53).

-Permanence of the Change: Par. 2: *“Their bodies will be united again to their souls forever”* (Matt. 25:46).

-Time of the Change: Par. 2: *“At the last day...”* (John 5:28, 29; Acts 24:15)

-Contrast in the Change: Par. 3: *“The bodies of the unjust will be raised by the power of Christ to dishonor.”* (Dan 12:2)

“By His Spirit the bodies of the just will be raised to honor and will be made like Christ’s own glorious body.” (Rom. 8:11; 1 Cor. 15:42f; Phil. 3:21;)

Implications

For the Christian view of the body, burial and cremation, the world to come