

End Things: Heaven and Hell

Chapter 24 Summary

Chapter Learning Objectives

- The participants will reflect on words and phrases that represent happiness and unhappiness for them, and their own understanding of Heaven and Hell.
- The participants will examine the Church's teaching on Heaven and Hell.
- The participants will reflect on Jesus' teaching on the Last Judgment and apply what is required of us to live in the Reign of God.

Content Summary

1. The "end things" refer to matters of eternity, like Heaven and Hell.
2. Yet, for those who believe in Christ, the "end things" are not really the end, but the beginning of eternal life.
3. The miracle of the raising of Lazarus from the dead (as well as Jesus' own Resurrection) show us that death is not the end of life.
4. Death is the separation of the soul from the body. The soul is immortal. And, at the general resurrection of the dead, God will raise our bodies and we will be transformed.
5. Heaven is not a place but a state of being in perfect friendship and union with God.
6. Heaven begins here on earth, with loving attitudes and actions.
7. Hell is separation from God forever.
8. We can choose Heaven or Hell for ourselves by our response to God's love.
9. At the time of our death, we will be judged by Christ, and our lives will be compared to the Gospel message. At the end of time, a second judgment will be made by Christ, who will separate people into two groups: those who have been faithful to the Gospel of love, and those who have not. The former group will join God in his Kingdom, and all of Creation will be transformed. The second group will be separated from God forever.

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