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Doctrinal Studies Bible Church
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Requested Study

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Text: 2 Cor.5:1-10
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"INTERMEDIATE STATE"

Request: "Some Christian theologians believe there is an intermediate body in the intermediate state. They point to our lesson text as Scriptural proof. Could you comment on it?"

Theologians refer to the Intermediate State as that period between the believer's physical death and the Day of Resurrection.

We will study five aspects of the Intermediate State of every Church Age Believer
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1. We will begin by listing six promises that God has given every Church Age Believer important to this subject.

- (John 14:1-4) "Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, there you may be also. And you know the way where I am going."
- (1 Cor.15:20-24) But now Christ has been raised from the dead, the first fruits of those who are asleep. For since by a man came death, by a man also came the resurrection of the dead. For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ all will be made alive. But each in his own order: Christ the first fruits, after that those who are Christ's at His coming, then comes the end, when He hands over the kingdom to the God and Father, when He has abolished all rule and all authority and power.
- (Phil.1:21-23) "For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labor: yet what I shall choose I wot not. For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:
- (2 Cor.5:4-10) "For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as pledge. Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord for we walk by faith, not by sight we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad."
 - (1 Cor.5:17) Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come." (**Positional Truth**) A mystery doctrine of the Church Age – [seated]; (Col.3:1; Heb.1:13) until Christ's Second Coming.
- (1 Thess.4:16-17) "For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of *the* archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord."

- (1 Cor.15:51-57) “Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality. But when this perishable will have put on the imperishable, and this mortal will have put on immortality, then will come about the saying that is written, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory. O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR VICTORY? O DEATH, WHERE IS YOUR STING?” The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

2. Paul went to the Intermediate State and came back and was NOT permitted to speak about it in detail (2 Cor.12:1-7; Acts 14:19).

- Caught up (hapazo) (2 Cor.12:2, 4; 1 Thess.4:17; Col.3:1)
- Inexpressible (unspoken) words (arrhetos) [a - rhetos/ rhema/ apln] (2 Cor.12:4)
- Not permitted to speak (exesti) [not lawful] (John 18:31) (2 Cor.12:4)
- Surpassing greatness of the revelation (te huperbole ton apokalupsis) (2 Cor.12:7)

3. Jesus also went there and came back to give the promise of His eternal presence with us whether in the earthly body, Intermediate State, or eternity (2 Cor.5:6-8).

We will be with Him in our resurrection bodies at the Rapture, The Judgement Seat of Christ (JSC), during Millennial kingdom, and in the New Heaven and Earth.

At physical death,

- Jesus’ spirit returned to Father (Luke 23:46),
- Jesus’ body went to Joseph’s tomb (Luke 23:50-54)
- Jesus’ soul went to Sheol for three days (Luke 24:6-7; Matt.12:40; Acts 2:24-28).

He personally experienced this Intermediate State (Acts 2:27; 13:35; Ps.16:8-10; Matt.26:38-42). In Sheol, He went to Paradise (Luke 23:43) and to Tartarus (1 Pet.3:18-20).

4. Peter offered us a clue to the intermediate state through Jesus’ experience - “He was made alive by the Spirit” (zoopoieo/ a.p.ptc nsm) (1 Pet.3:18-19).

(1 Pet.3:18-19) “For Christ also died for sins once for all, the just for the unjust, so that He might bring us to God, having been put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the Spirit (inst.s.n); in which (en+inst.of association/ hos/ relative pronoun/ **inst.s.n**) also He went and made proclamation to the spirits now in prison.” (2 Pet.2:4-5)

(Rom.8:11) “But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through **His Spirit who dwells in you.**”

- **For living Church Age Believers, Christ lives in our bodies** (1 Cor.6:19; Col.1:26-27; 2:6-7, 12-13; Gal.2:20; 3:2-3).
- **For departed Church Age Believers, we live in resurrected Christ until** we receive our resurrection body (1 Cor.15:22; 2 Cor.5:6-8, 17) (Positional Truth).

5. At the moment of grace salvation, the Holy Spirit seals every Church Age Believer until the day of Redemption.

(Eph.4:30) “Do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.”

(Eph.1:13-14) “In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation – having also, believed, you were **sealed in Him with the Holy Spirit of promise**, who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, **with a view to the redemption of God’s own possession,** to the praise of His glory.”

(2 Cor.5:5) “Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave us **the Spirit as a pledge.**”

(John 14:16; 10:28-30) Jesus told us that the indwelling Holy Spirit will be with the Church Age Believer forever

(Rom.8:23) The Day of Redemption points to the day of resurrection; (2 Cor.5:4; 1 Cor.15:35)
(1 Thess.4:13-17) [The Rapture of the Church].

Paul’s final word on this subject:

(2 Cor.12:4) “Caught up to Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak.”