

THE LAST THINGS

The priest took the little silver box from his pocket and spoke again in Latin, touching the dying man with an oily wad; he finished what he had to do, put away the box and gave the final blessing. Suddenly Lord Marchmain moved his hand to his forehead; I thought he had felt the touch of the chrism and was wiping it away. "O God," I prayed, "don't let him do that." But there was no need for fear; the hand moved slowly down his breast, then to his shoulder, and Lord Marchmain made the sign of the cross. Then I knew that the sign I had asked for was not a little thing, not a passing nod of recognition, and a phrase came back to me from my childhood of the veil of the temple being rent from top to bottom.

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THE LAST THINGS



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THE LAST THINGS



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THE LAST THINGS

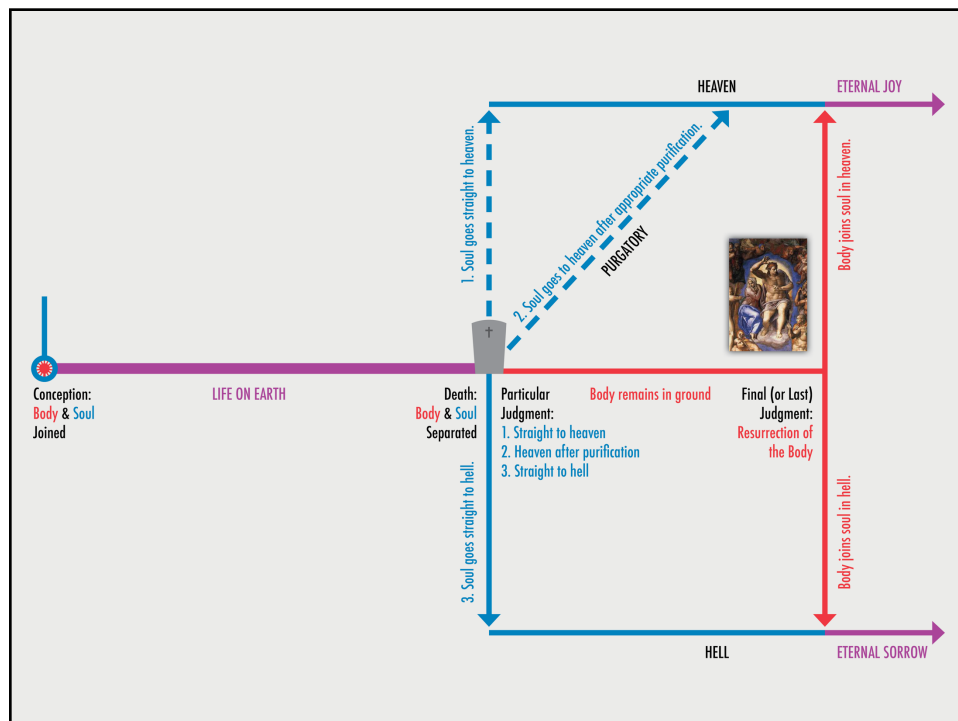


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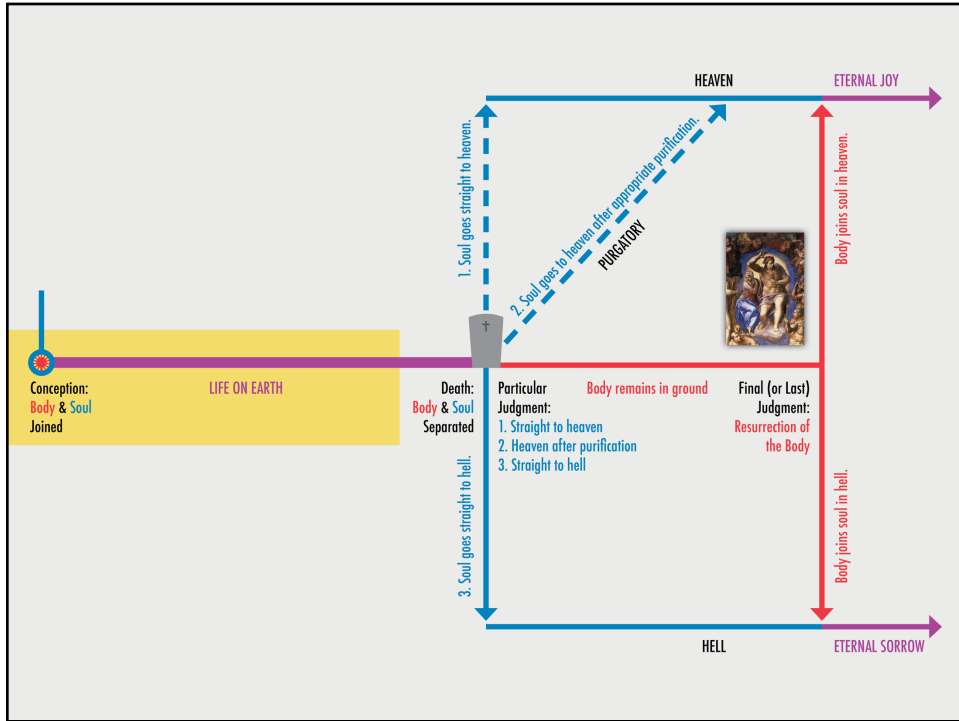
THE LAST THINGS



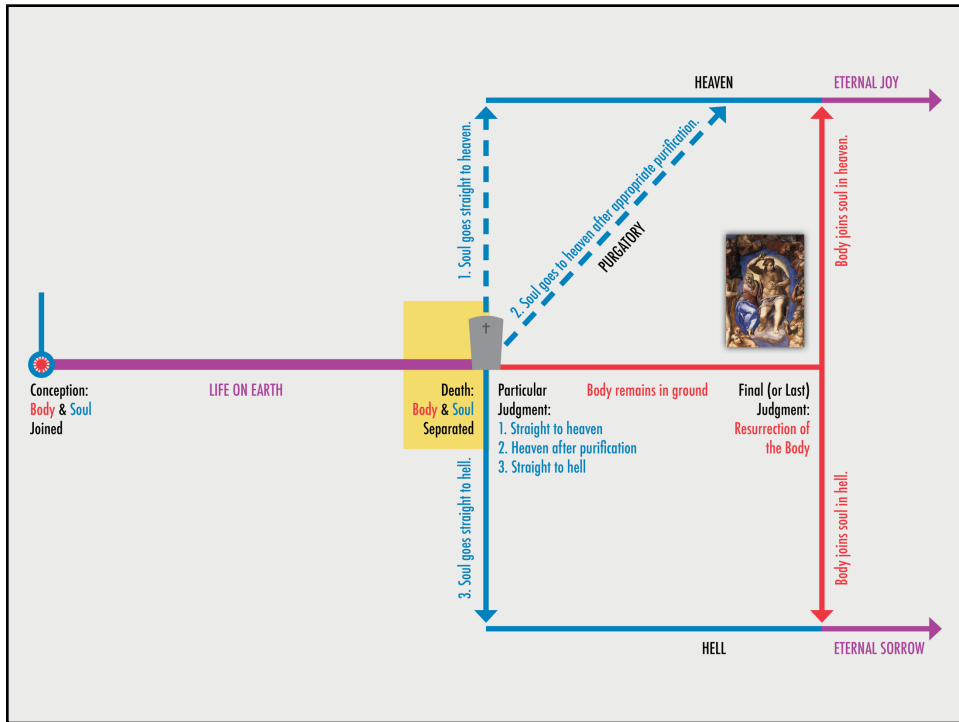
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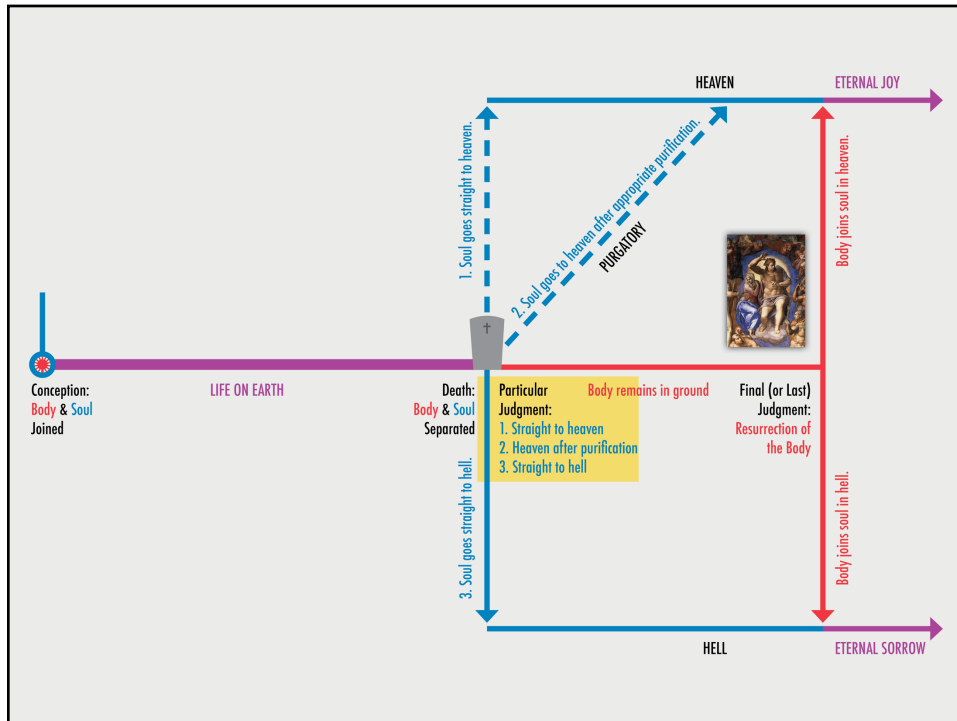
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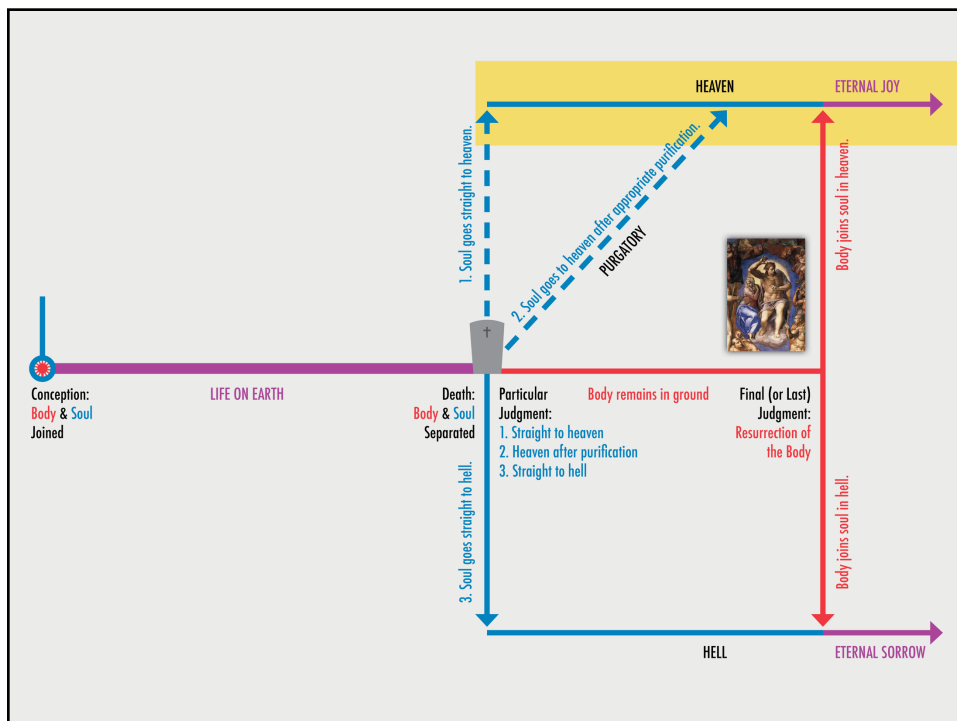
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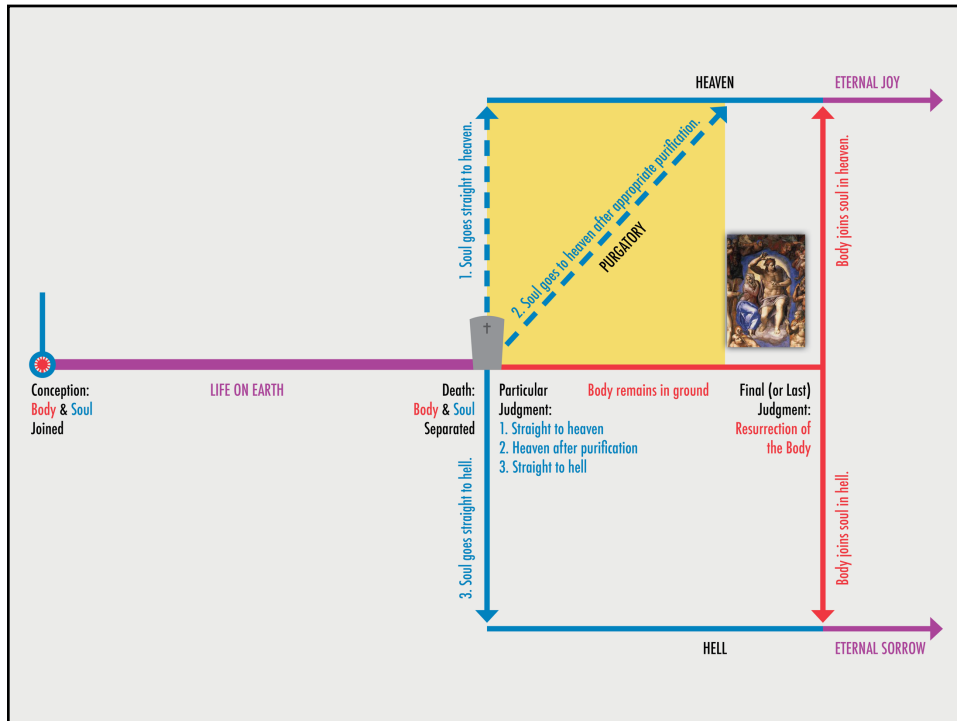
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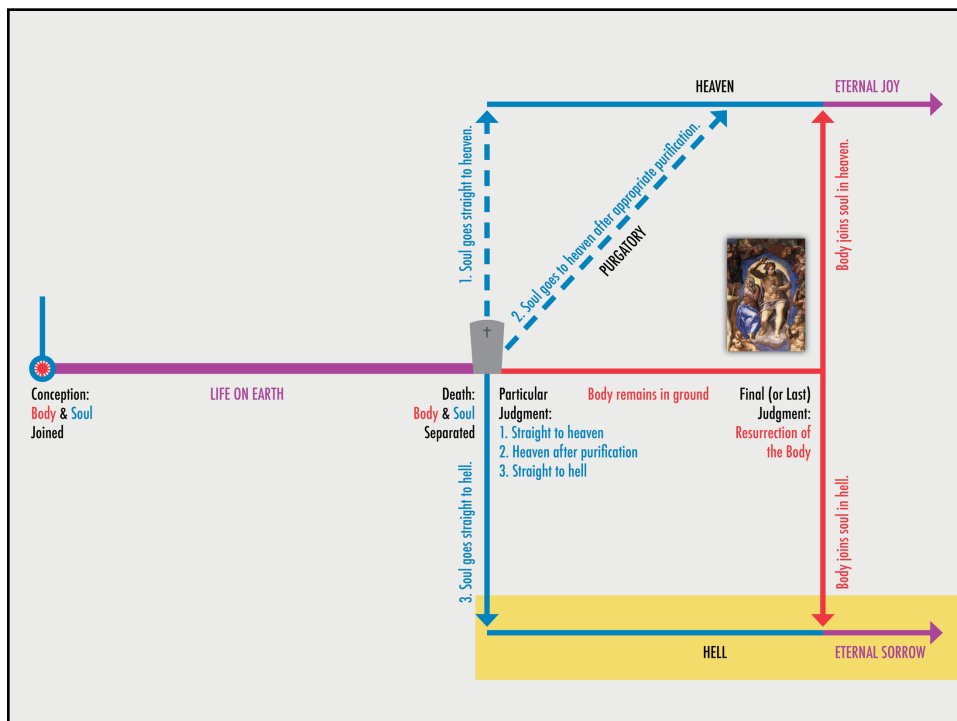
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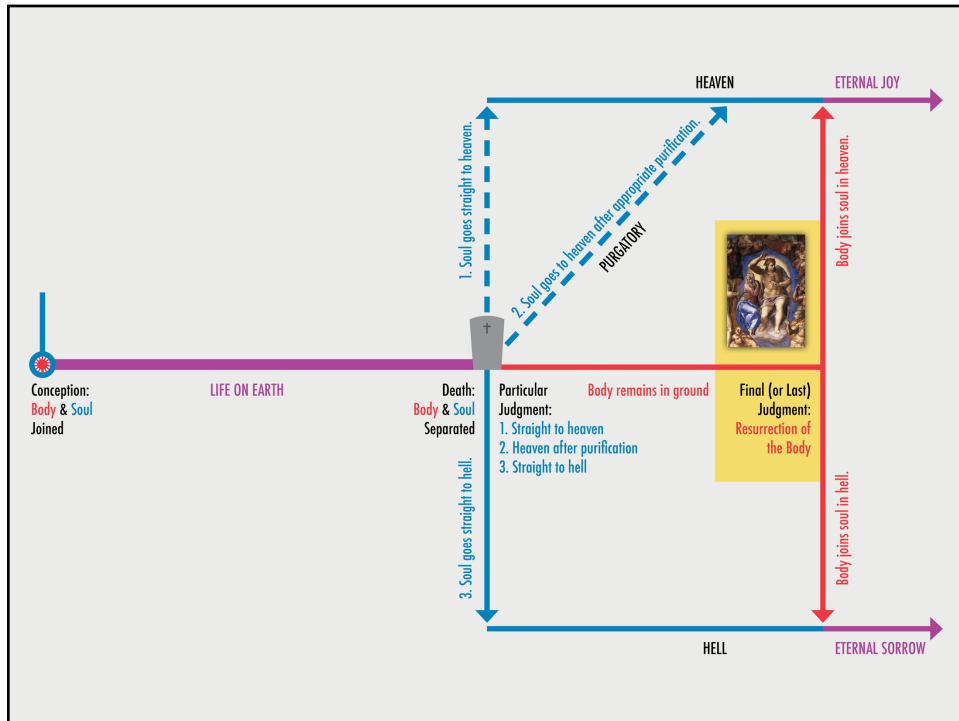
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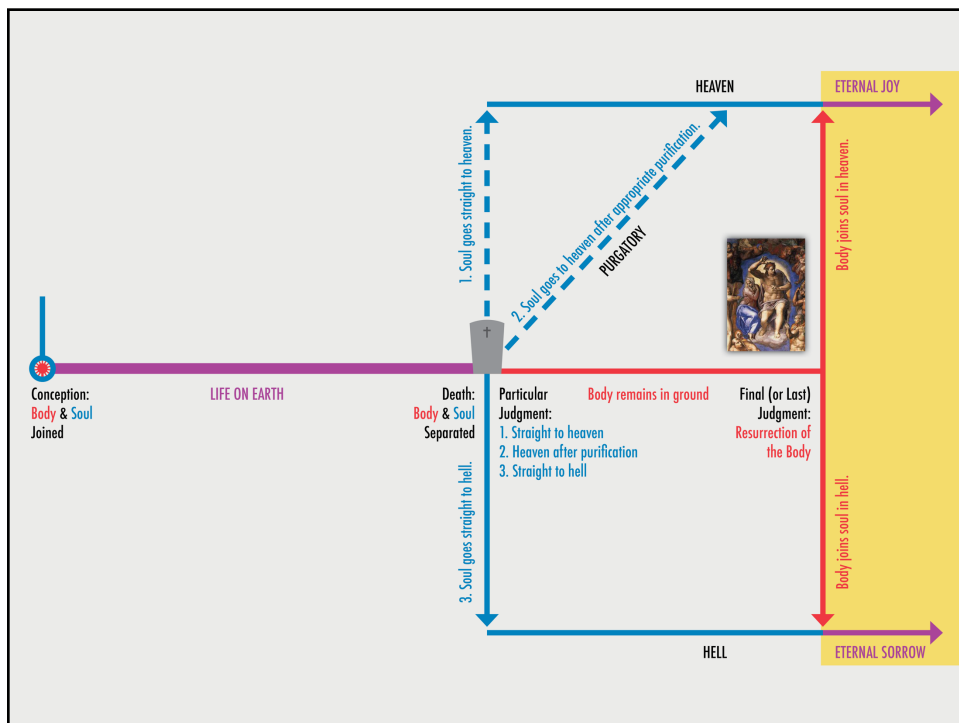
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THE LAST THINGS

TONIGHT

Death
Particular Judgment
Last Judgment

NEXT WEEK

Hell
Purgatory
Heaven
Preparing for a Happy Death

15

THE LAST THINGS



The Last Judgment
~ Michelangelo (1536-1541)

16

THE LAST THINGS



Saint Francis of Assisi
~ Jusepe de Ribera (1643)

Quidquid agis, prudenter agas, et respice finem.
Whatever you do, do cautiously, and look to the end.
From the collection "Deeds of the Romans" (14C)

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THE LAST THINGS



Saint Jerome Writing
~ Caravaggio (c 1605)

Respice post te! Hominem te esse memento! Memento mori!
Look behind you! Remember that you are but a man! Remember that you will die!
Attributed to ancient Roman tradition

18

THE LAST THINGS

RULE OF SAINT BENEDICT: CHAPTER IV WHAT ARE THE INSTRUMENTS OF GOOD WORKS

In the first place, to love the Lord God with the whole heart,
the whole soul and the whole strength.

Then one's neighbor as if oneself.

Then, not to kill.

Not to commit adultery.

Not to steal.

Not to covet.

Not to utter false witness.

To honor all men.

To do as one would be done by.

To deny oneself that one may follow Christ.

...

To long for eternal life with all spiritual desire.

To have the expectation of death daily before one's eyes.

Hour by hour to keep guard over one's every act.

To know for certain that God sees one everywhere.

...

19

THE LAST THINGS



Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return.

Ash Wednesday, Blessing and Distribution of Ashes

20

THE LAST THINGS

“Someday, a company of men will process out to a churchyard and lower a coffin and everyone will go home; but one will not come back, and that will be me.”

~ Karl Barth

“Men shun the thought of death as sad, but death will only be sad to those who have no thought of it. It must come sooner or later, and then he who has refused to see the truth in life will be forced to face it in death.”

~ Archbishop Fenelon

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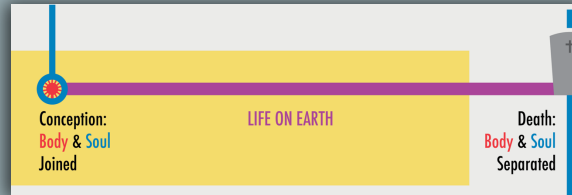
THE LAST THINGS

Not to admit, therefore, to these four ends of Death, Judgment, Heaven, and Hell, the Catholic believer can be neither Catholic nor believing, because here is the central deposit from which all else is derived; here begins the vibrant and unending narrative of the Christian life, the long journey home to God. In order to function at even the most minimal level of Christian awareness, one has got to face the questions that, in Pascal's phrase, take us by the throat: How am I to die a good and holy Death? How am I to meet Judgment before God? How am I to avoid Hell? How am I to obtain Heaven?

~ Regis Martin, *The Last Things*

22

LIFE



HUMAN LIFE

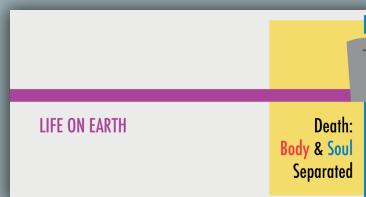
362 The human person, created in the image of God, is a being at once corporeal and spiritual.

365 The unity of soul and body is so profound that one has to consider the soul to be the “form” of the body: i.e., it is because of its spiritual soul that the body made of matter becomes a living, human body; spirit and matter, in man, are not two natures united, but rather their union forms a single nature.

366 The Church teaches that every spiritual soul is created immediately by God – it is not “produced” by the parents – and also that it is immortal: it does not perish when it separates from the body at death, and it will be reunited with the body at the final Resurrection.

23

DEATH



DEATH

1005 To rise with Christ, we must die with Christ: we must “be away from the body and at home with the Lord.” In that “departure” which is death the soul is separated from the body. It will be reunited with the body on the day of resurrection of the dead.

1013 Death is the end of man’s earthly pilgrimage, of the time of grace and mercy which God offers him so as to work out his earthly life in keeping with the divine plan, and to decide his ultimate destiny. When “the single course of our earthly life” is completed, we shall not return to other earthly lives: “It is appointed for men to die once.” There is no “reincarnation” after death.

24

DEATH: NOT GOD'S ORIGINAL PLAN

CCC 1008

Death is a consequence of sin. The Church's Magisterium, as authentic interpreter of the affirmations of Scripture and Tradition, teaches that death entered the world on account of man's sin. Even though man's nature is mortal God had destined him not to die. Death was therefore contrary to the plans of God the Creator and entered the world as a consequence of sin.

Genesis 2:16-17

The LORD God gave the man this order: You are free to eat from any of the trees of the garden except the tree of knowledge of good and evil. From that tree you shall not eat; when you eat from it you shall die.

Wisdom 2:23-24

For God formed us to be imperishable; the image of his own nature he made us. But by the envy of the devil, death entered the world, and they who are allied with him experience it.

25

DEATH: CONQUERED BY CHRIST

Eucharistic Prayer IV

And when through disobedience he had lost
your friendship,
you did not abandon him to the domain of death.
For you came in mercy to the aid of all,
so that those who seek might find you.
Time and again you offered them covenants
and through the prophets
taught them to look forward to salvation.

And you so loved the world, Father most holy,
that in the fullness of time
you sent your Only Begotten Son to be our Savior.

To accomplish your plan,
he gave himself up to death,
and, rising from the dead,
he destroyed death and restored life.

26

DEATH: CONQUERED BY CHRIST

John 3:16

For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.

John 11:23-26

Jesus said to her, "Your brother will rise." Martha said to him, "I know he will rise, in the resurrection on the last day." Jesus told her, "I am the resurrection and the life; whoever believes in me, even if he dies, will live, and everyone who lives and believes in me will never die. Do you believe this?"

27

DEATH: CERTAIN BUT NOT FINAL

I Thessalonians 4:13-14

We do not want you to be unaware, brothers, about those who have fallen asleep, so that you may not grieve like the rest, who have no hope. For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, so too will God, through Jesus, bring with him those who have fallen asleep.

Romans 6:22-23

But now that you have been freed from sin and have become slaves of God, the benefit that you have leads to sanctification, and its end is eternal life. For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.

I Corinthians 15:22-26

For just as in Adam all die, so too in Christ shall all be brought to life, but each one in proper order: Christ the firstfruits; then, at his coming, those who belong to Christ; then comes the end, when he hands over the kingdom to his God and Father; when he has destroyed every sovereignty and every authority and power. For he must reign until he has put all his enemies under his feet. The last enemy to be destroyed is death.

28

DEATH: CERTAIN BUT NOT FINAL

I Corinthians 15:51-55

Behold, I tell you a mystery. We shall not all fall asleep, but we will all be changed, in an instant, in the blink of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed.

For that which is corruptible must clothe itself with incorruptibility, and that which is mortal must clothe itself with immortality. And when this which is corruptible clothes itself with incorruptibility and this which is mortal clothes itself with immortality, then the word that is written shall come about:

"Death is swallowed up in victory.

Where, O death, is your victory?

Where, O death, is your sting?"

29

DEATH: END OF OUR DECIDING

1013 Death is the end of man's earthly pilgrimage, of the time of grace and mercy which God offers him so as to work out his earthly life in keeping with the divine plan, and to decide his ultimate destiny.

Death marks the end of our time to choose God

At the moment of any man's death, the extent of human activity, human liberty, is ended. There is nothing more to be done. The play is over, time's theater closed.

The life that each man has lived, the life that even now has ended and is no more, that life is replete with all the meaning it will ever have. In the event of each man's death, there will crystallize the full measure of life's significance, the distilled weight and value of its eternal worth.

After death comes judgment.

30

JUDGMENT



The Last Judgment
~ Michelangelo (1536-1541)

31

JUDGMENT



32

JUDGMENT



33

JUDGMENT



34

JUDGMENT: GOD IS A JUST JUDGE

Jeremiah 17:10

I, the LORD, explore the mind
and test the heart,
Giving to all according to their ways,
according to the fruit of their deeds.

Psalm 9:8-9

The LORD rules forever,
has set up his throne for judgment.

It is he who judges the world with justice,
who judges the peoples with fairness.

2 Timothy 4:8

From now on the crown of righteousness
awaits me, which the Lord, the just judge,
will award to me on that day, and not only
to me, but to all who have longed for his
appearance.

Psalm 7:8-12

Have the assembly of the peoples
gather about you;
and return on high above them,
the LORD will pass judgment on the peoples.

Judge me, LORD, according to my
righteousness,
and my integrity.

Let the malice of the wicked end.
Uphold the just one,
O just God,
who tries hearts and minds.

God is a shield above me
saving the upright of heart.
God is a just judge, powerful and patient,
not exercising anger every day.

35

TWO JUDGEMENTS

PARTICULAR JUDGMENT (PROXIMATE JUDGMENT)

Happens first, at moment of death
“Private” – Soul before God
Soul knows the true weight of its worth in God’s eyes
Soul receives its recompense

INTERIM (WAITING PERIOD)

Souls of the dead: heaven, purgatory, hell
Bodies of the dead: here, subject to corruption and decay

997 In death, the separation of the soul from the body, the human body decays and the soul goes to meet God, while awaiting its reunion with its glorified body. God, in his almighty power, will definitively grant incorruptible life to our bodies by reuniting them with our souls, through the power of Jesus’ Resurrection.

LAST JUDGMENT (FINAL JUDGMENT, GENERAL JUDGMENT)

Follows the resurrection of the body at the end of the world
Living and dead
“Public” – All will be made known
Body and soul reunited for eternity

36

PARTICULAR JUDGMENT

| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Particular Judgment: | Body remains in ground |
| 1. Straight to heaven | |
| 2. Heaven after purification | |
| 3. Straight to hell | |

PARTICULAR JUDGMENT

1021 Death puts an end to human life as the time open to either accepting or rejecting the divine grace manifested in Christ. The New Testament speaks of judgment primarily in its aspect of the final encounter with Christ in his second coming, but also affirms that each will be rewarded immediately after death in accordance with his works and faith. The parable of the poor man Lazarus and the words of Christ on the cross to the good thief, as well as other New Testament texts speak of a final destiny of the soul – a destiny which can be different for some and for others.

37

PARTICULAR JUDGEMENT

1022 Each man receives his eternal retribution in his immortal soul at the very moment of his death, in a particular judgment that refers his life to Christ: either entrance into the blessedness of heaven – through a purification or immediately, or immediate and everlasting damnation.

IMMEDIATELY TO HEAVEN

This is the goal!

HEAVEN AFTER PURIFICATION (PURGATORY)

This is not the goal, but we'll take it.

IMMEDIATE DAMNATION (HELL)

Definitely not the goal, don't want it at all.

38

PARTICULAR JUDGEMENT

What else, then, is the Particular Judgment if not an encounter with the living God, before whom all the dross of a man's life is consumed in the fire of divine Judgment, leaving only that which is truly lasting. Each of us will then know himself exactly as he is known, without any possibility of error regarding the meaning of his life.

In the end, two options:
 Salvation or Damnation
 Paradise or Perdition
 Heaven or Hell

CS Lewis: *The Great Divorce*

There are only two kinds of people in the end: those who say to God, "Thy will be done," and those to whom God says, in the end, "Thy will be done." All that are in Hell, choose it. Without that self-choice there could be no Hell. No soul that seriously and constantly desires joy will ever miss it. Those who seek find. Those who knock it is opened.

39

PARTICULAR JUDGEMENT

Judgement of God is final – No higher authority for appeal

And so final sentence is imposed, to which no appeal can be made to overturn. Because the verdict given is the truth, and truth alone is triumphant, there can be no possible vanquishing of its force or clarity, no mistaking of what it all finally means.

Joseph Ratzinger (Benedict XVI): *Eschatology – Death and Eternal Life*

"In death, a human being emerges into the light of full reality and truth. He takes up that place which is truly his by right. The masquerade of living with its constant retreat behind posturings and fictions, is now over. Man is what he is in truth. Judgment consists in this removal of the mask in death. The judgment is simply the manifestation of the truth."

40

JUDGEMENT IN SCRIPTURE

2 Corinthians 5:10

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive recompense, according to what he did in the body, whether good or evil.

Romans 2:4-8

Or do you hold his priceless kindness, forbearance, and patience in low esteem, unaware that the kindness of God would lead you to repentance? By your stubbornness and impenitent heart, you are storing up wrath for yourself for the day of wrath and revelation of the just judgment of God, who will repay everyone according to his works: eternal life to those who seek glory, honor, and immortality through perseverance in good works, but wrath and fury to those who selfishly disobey the truth and obey wickedness.

Romans 14:10-12

Why then do you judge your brother? Or you, why do you look down on your brother?

For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written:

*“As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bend before me,
and every tongue shall give praise to God.”*

So [then] each of us shall give an account of himself [to God].

41

RESURRECTION & LAST JUDGMENT



The Last Judgment
~ Michelangelo (1536-1541)

42

RESURRECTION OF THE DEAD

1038 The resurrection of all the dead, “of both the just and the unjust,” will precede the Last Judgment. This will be “the hour when all who are in the tombs will hear [the Son of man’s] voice and come forth, those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of judgment.” Then Christ will come “in his glory, and all the angels with him. ... Before him will be gathered all the nations, and he will separate them one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will place the sheep at his right hand, but the goats at the left. ... And they will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”

1039 In the presence of Christ, who is Truth itself, the truth of each man’s relationship with God will be laid bare. The Last Judgment will reveal even to its furthest consequences the good each person has done or failed to do during his earthly life.



43

THE LAST JUDGMENT

LAST JUDGMENT

1040 The Last Judgment will come when Christ returns in glory. Only the Father knows the day and the hour; only he determines the moment of its coming. Then through his Son Jesus Christ he will pronounce the final word on all history. We shall know the ultimate meaning of the whole work of creation and of the entire economy of salvation and understand the marvelous ways by which his Providence led everything towards its final end. The Last Judgment will reveal that God’s justice triumphs over all the injustices committed by his creatures and that God’s love is stronger than death.



44

LAST JUDGMENT

Nicene Creed

He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead.

Fourth Lateran Council, 1215

Christ will come at the end of the world; he will judge the living and the dead; and he will reward all, both the lost and the elect, according to their works. And all these will rise with their own bodies which they now have so that they may receive according to their works, whether good or bad; the wicked, a perpetual punishment with the devil; the good, eternal glory with Christ.

John 5:24-29

Amen, amen, I say to you, whoever hears my word and believes in the one who sent me has eternal life and will not come to condemnation, but has passed from death to life. Amen, amen, I say to you, the hour is coming and is now here when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. For just as the Father has life in himself, so also he gave to his Son the possession of life in himself. And he gave him power to exercise judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not be amazed at this, because the hour is coming in which all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and will come out, those who have done good deeds to the resurrection of life, but those who have done wicked deeds to the resurrection of condemnation.

45

LAST JUDGMENT

1041 The message of the Last Judgment calls men to conversion while God is still giving them “the acceptable time, ... the day of salvation.” It inspires a holy fear of God and commits them to the justice of the Kingdom of God. It proclaims the “blessed hope” of the Lord's return, when he will come “to be glorified in his saints, and to be marveled at in all who have believed.”

Respice finem.
Look to the end.

Memento mori!
Remember that you will die.

46

THE LAST THINGS



The Last Judgment
~ Michelangelo (1536-1541)