

The Last Things (4 of 7)
Small Group Discussion Questions

Join our congregation for worship in-person or online at 10:30 am each Sunday via our [Grantham Church YouTube Channel](#). If you ever miss a message, the sermons are always posted to the recent sermons page at our website and at the Grantham Church Podcast the following day, along with the sermon slides and small group discussion questions under Worship Resources. Thank you for staying connected with us!

Sunday, May 25th, 2025



Eschatology is the study of “the last things” in Christian theology. The *eschaton* is about the biblical view of the future, which comes into sharp focus with Jesus and the New Testament. Where is everything going? What happens when we die? And what about heaven, hell, the end times, the second coming, the final judgment, and the resurrection? In this 7-week sermon series, we will explore *The Last Things* and how our knowledge of the future can deepen our trust in God in times of fear and uncertainty, ground us in the Christian hope, and help us to live in light of the last things.

Sermon Title: Death After Death: Reimagining Hell

Scripture Reading: Luke 16:19-31; Matthew 10:28, 13:36-43; Revelation 21:8

Sermon Focus: Jesus spoke frequently about there being terrible consequences for those who refuse him and his Kingdom. He used many metaphors to describe an eternal punishment for those who reject God, spurn his love, and live for themselves. What is hell? Who will experience it? And how does the biblical teaching of hell align with the God who looks like Jesus? In the fourth message of our series, Pastor David invites us to reimagine hell as a *self-chosen* reality that ends in a second death.

Thank you for going deeper in conversation with your small group. Use the following questions to help *guide* your small group discussion:

1. Pastor David began by saying that “hell” has been used by many Christians and churches through history as a weapon. For some, it has caused psychological damage; for others, it has promoted a portrait of God that doesn’t look like Jesus. Have you seen or experienced this yourself? If so, share your experience.
2. In his book, *Imagine Heaven*, John Burke writes that, “The Handbook of Near-Death Experiences reports that twelve different studies involving 1,369 subjects found that 23 percent “reported NDEs ranging from disturbing to terrifying or despairing” (pg.222). What is your reaction to this fact and to the stories that Pastor David shared. Have you heard about hellish NDEs before?
3. There is no getting around the fact that Jesus and the New Testament says some troubling things about the fate of those who reject God, spurn his love, live for themselves, and practice wickedness (e.g., Matthew 10:28, 8:12, 13:36–43, 25:31-46; Mark 9:42-48; Luke 12:5; Romans 2:5–8, 2 Thessalonians 1:8–9; 2 Peter 2:4–9, 3:3-7; Jude 7, 13; Revelation 20:10, 14–15, 21:6-8). In the past, how have you made sense of this teaching and how it’s consistent with the God who looks like Jesus? What does it say about God, free will, and our decisions?
4. Look back to the slide that captures all the main schools of thought on hell. The main views: Eternal Conscience Torment (ECT), Annihilationism (conditional immortality), Universalism (universal reconciliation), and Modified Traditionalism (dehumanization). What did you grow up believing? What do you believe now and why? Also, can you see how good Christians can disagree on these views.
5. Read Revelation 21:1-8. God promises to rid creation of hell, both as a present and future reality. This is good news! In the meantime, we must choose life in Christ, love as he has called us to love, and share the good news with others. What is God saying to you through this message? What words of challenge are you hearing? Also, what words of comfort and assurance are you hearing?
6. Is God bringing any friends, family, or enemies to mind who are living in hell or appear to be on this path? Please close in prayer for them and each other.