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# Presbyterianism 101

ALL TO GOD'S GLORY:  
Death & Resurrection  
(WCF 32)

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## Eschatology & Westminster

- **Eschatology:** “the Last Things”
- **Warning Re:** Fascination with “End Times”
- **Scriptural and the End Times**
  - Doesn't say much, but that hasn't stopped the human imagination
  - We are living in the End Times, Tribulation
  - Watch and Be Ready
  - Strive for Holiness

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## Body & Soul (32.1)

*The bodies of men, after death, return to dust and see corruption: but their souls (which neither die nor sleep) having an immortal subsistence, immediately return to God who gave them: the souls of the righteous, being then made perfect in holiness, are received into the highest heavens, where they behold the face of God, in light and glory, waiting for the full redemption of their bodies. And the souls of the wicked are cast into hell, where they remain in torments and utter darkness, reserved to the judgment of the great day. Beside these two places, for souls separated from their bodies, the Scripture acknowledges none.*

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

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- **Dual Nature of Man:** psycho-somatic unity
  - cf. Gen. 2:7, Matt 10:28, *And do not fear those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather fear him who can destroy both soul and body in hell.*
  - Yet the soul is immortal
  - (First) Death: the soul ceasing to be in the flesh, absence from the body
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### Body & Soul (32.1)

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- **Death Defined:** Dust returns to the earth; spirit returns to God who gave it (cf. Ecc. 12:7)
  - Spirits of the just and unjust
  - Separation of Body and Soul is unnatural, improper; we are made to be body and soul
- **Warning:** Great care in distinguishing soul & body
  - Luke 23:43, "Today *you* will be with *me* in paradise"
  - Jesus does not say "...your soul...my soul..."

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

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- **Death is not the expiration of personality**
    - Those who presently are *with the Lord* are incomplete and they await the redemption of body
    - What good is the promise of an eternal inheritance (i.e. Promised Land) without a body?
- Hebrews 11:39-40, *And all these, though commended through their faith, did not receive what was promised, since God had provided something better for us, **that apart** from us they should not be made perfect.*

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

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- **We worship God in Body and Soul**

- Physical presence with the saints will only be enhance not destroyed in eternity
- Corporate Worship, as picture of heaven, must be a physical gathering, not simply “with you in spirit”
- Corporate Worship more important than private devotions, more blessing, more benefit, etc.

Psalm 87:1-2, *On the holy mount stands the city he founded; the LORD loves the gates of Zion more than all the dwelling places of Jacob.*

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

10

- **Intermediate State:** “...passes into immortal life; we only begin to live after we die...” (Gerstner)

- **Body:**

- Rests in the ground, eaten by worms, etc.
- The souls of believers are at their death made perfect in holiness, and do immediately pass into glory; and their bodies, being still united to Christ, do rest in their graves till the resurrection. (WSC37)

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

11

- **Intermediate State:** “...passes into immortal life; we only begin to live after we die...” (Gerstner)

- **Body:**

“Mr. Dickson, you are advanced in years now, and your own prospect is soon to be laid in the grave, there to be eaten by worms; I confess to you, that if I can but live and die serving and honoring the Lord Jesus, it will make no difference to me whether I am eaten by Cannibals or by worms; and in the Great Day my Resurrection body will rise as fair as yours in the likeness of our risen Redeemer.”

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

12

- **Intermediate State:** "...passes into immortal life; we only begin to live after we die..." (Gerstner)
- **Body:** rests in the ground, decays
- **Soul:** goes to be with the Lord
  - Righteous
  - Wicked
- Private Judgment immediately follows death: *And just as it is appointed for man to die once, and after that comes judgment* (Heb 9:27)

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

13

- **Intermediate State:** "...passes into immortal life; we only begin to live after we die..." (Gerstner)
- **The Righteous:** made perfect in holiness:  
*Heb 12:22-24, But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect, and to Jesus, the mediator of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood that speaks a better word than the blood of Abel.*

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

15

- **Intermediate State:** "...passes into immortal life; we only begin to live after we die..." (Gerstner)
- **The Righteous:** made perfect in holiness;
  - The focus of saints in glory is Christ!
    - Paul anticipated the presence of Christ
    - Beware heavenly hopes rooted in humans
  - There is an awareness of life on earth (Cf. Rev. 5)

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### Body & Soul (32.1)

16

- **Intermediate State:** "...passes into immortal life; we only begin to live after we die..." (Gerstner)
- **The Righteous:** made perfect in holiness;
- **The Wicked:** await final judgment in torment

**Luke 16:22-24,** *The poor man died and was carried by the angels to Abraham's side. The rich man also died and was buried, and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side. And he called out, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.'*

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### The Resurrection (32.2)

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*At the last day, such as are found alive shall not die, but be changed: and all the dead shall be raised up, with the selfsame bodies, and none other, although with different qualities, which shall be united again to their souls for ever.*

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### The Resurrection (32.2)

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- **The End of History:** The "Day of the Lord"
- **Living Believers:** will not die, but be changed

**1 Thes 4:15-18,** *For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.*

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## The Resurrection (32.2)

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- **All will be Resurrected** (cf. Dan 12:2): the general resurrection from the dead

**John 5:25-29**, *“Truly, truly, I say to you, an 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 as the Father has life in himself, so he has granted the Son also to have life in himself. And he has given him authority to execute judgment, because he is the Son of Man. Do not marvel at this, for an hour is coming when all who are in the tombs will hear his voice and come out, those who have done good to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil to the resurrection of judgment.”*

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## Resurrection Bodies (32.3)

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*The bodies of the unjust shall, by the power of Christ, be raised to dishonour: the bodies of the just, by His Spirit, unto honour; and be made conformable to His own glorious body.*

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## Resurrection Bodies (32.3)

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- **Man is Soul and Body**
  - Animals are body, angels are spirit (Aquinas)
  - Are we properly human without bodies? (I Cor 15:42-45)
- **Glorious Bodies:** Humans receive bodies for eternity that identify with the bodies we had on earth
- **Christians Respect the Bodies of the Dead:**
  - Human body is precious
  - Preserved in faith, certain hope of resurrection

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## Resurrection Bodies (32.3)

22

- **Man is Soul and Body**

- Animals are body, angels are spirit (Aquinas)
- Are we properly human without bodies? (I Cor 15:42-45)

- **Glorious Bodies:** Humans receive bodies for eternity that identify with the bodies we had on earth

- **Christians Respect the Bodies of the Dead:**

- **Transformation:** suited for eternal life

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