

Life After Death: work using additional sources of wisdom and authority

Tasks

1. Read the sources of wisdom and authority below.
2. Explain in detail how these sources support the Catholic Christian beliefs about life after death that you have studied.
3. (a) What difficulties might people have in believing that their body will be resurrected by God at some point in the future?
(b) How might a Christian use the two passages below from 1 Corinthians to explain what the resurrected body will be like?
(c) Do you think your answer to (b) adequately addresses the difficulties you noted in (a)? Explain your reasons in as much detail as possible.

Bible Teaching

'Jesus said to her, "I am the resurrection and the life. Whoever believes in me, though he die, yet shall he live". '(John 11:25)

' "Let not your hearts be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father's house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also. And you know the way to where I am going." '(Jesus in John 14:1-31)

'For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord. '(Romans 6:23)

'He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.' (Revelation 21:4)

'For I am sure that neither death nor life, nor angels nor rulers, nor things present nor things to come, nor powers, nor height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord.' (Romans 8:38-39)

'Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 shall be changed. For this perishable body must put on the imperishable, and this mortal body must put on immortality. When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed

up in victory." "O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" ...' (1 Corinthians 15:51-57)

'So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.' (1 Corinthians 15:42-44)

The Catechism

'All who die in God's grace and friendship, but still imperfectly purified, are indeed assured of their eternal salvation: but after death they undergo purification, so as to achieve the holiness necessary to enter the joy of heaven.' (Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) paragraph 1030, 1992)