

The Four Last Things

The opening meditation can be found at:

<https://spiritualdirection.com/2018/12/31/let-us-make-good-use-of-time>

Death

- Wisdom 3:1-8 - The souls of the just are in the hands of God
- Wisdom 1:13-14 - Death was not part of God's original plan
- Genesis 3:19 - to dust we shall return
- Genesis 3:22-23 - God would not let Adam and Eve eat of the tree of life
- Sanctifying grace and actual grace
- CCC 1013 - death is the end of our earthly pilgrimage
- CCC 1021 - death ends our opportunity to accept (or reject) God's grace
- CCC 1014 - the Church encourages preparation for death
- John 3:16 - whoever believes in Jesus "should not perish but have eternal life"
- 1 Timothy 1:10 - Jesus abolished death through the Gospel
- 1 Corinthians 15:55 - O Death, where is your victory?

Judgment

- CCC 1022 - **Particular judgment** - judgment immediately upon death
- John 5:28-29; CCC 1038-1041 - **General judgment** at the end of time

Hell

- CCC 1035 - chief punishment of Hell
- Jesus warned of the possibility of Hell (This is not an exhaustive list of references.) - Matthew 5:29-30; Mark 9:43-49; Matthew 7:21-23; Matthew 13:24-30; Matthew 13:47-50; Luke 10:10-12; Luke 12:4-5
- Revelation 21:8 - lake of fire
- CCC 1037 - no one is predestined to go to Hell
- Matthew 7:13-14 - the narrow gate
- Matthew 18:10-14 - parable of the lost sheep
- John 6:39-40 - Jesus does not want to lose any who are given him by the Father

Purgatory (not one of the Last Things, but we need to talk about it)

- CCC 1030 - description of Purgatory
- 1 Corinthians 3:15 - one being saved but his works being burned up
- Revelation 21:27 - nothing impure will enter Heaven

Heaven

- 1 Corinthians 2:9 - eye has not seen; ear has not heard
- Revelation 21:4 - God will wipe away every tear;
- Revelation 22:4-5 - We will see God face to face.
- Luke 20:34-36 - marriage will not exist in Heaven

Some additional resources:

Grace: <https://www.catholic.com/tract/grace-what-it-is-and-what-it-does>

Burial and cremation: http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20160815_ad-resurgendum-cum-christo_en.html

Weight of Sin and Truth of Purgatory: <http://www.davidancell.com/2016/11/16/the-weight-of-sin-and-the-truth-of-purgatory/>