



Common Christian Ideas vs. the Bible

THE AFTERLIFE

Many of mainstream Christianity's ideas about the afterlife are based on assumptions and human philosophy. This chart shows how these ideas are contradicted by the Bible.

COMMON BELIEF #1: The human soul is immortal.

God "alone has immortality" (1 Timothy 6:16), while humans are "mortal" (Romans 6:12) and "the soul who sins shall die" (Ezekiel 18:4).

COMMON BELIEF #2: After death, people continue to be conscious in heaven or hell.

"The dead know nothing" (Ecclesiastes 9:5) because "there is no work or device or knowledge or wisdom in the grave" (verse 10).

COMMON BELIEF #3: The righteous go to heaven after death.

"No one has ascended to heaven but He who came down from heaven, that is, the Son of Man who is in heaven" (John 3:13).

COMMON BELIEF #4: The result of sin is an eternity of torment in hellfire.

"The wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

COMMON BELIEF #5: We receive our reward or punishment immediately after death.

"We shall not all sleep, but we shall 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 incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Corinthians 15:51-52; see also verses 22-23; John 5:28-29; 1 Thessalonians 4:15-17).

COMMON BELIEF #6: Heaven is the reward of the righteous.

"The meek ... shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5).