

sermon notes

Pastor Tony Caffey, Messiah Bible Church | Final Things Lesson 5
March 25, 2026 | “The Church Age and The Intermediate State”

Three Facts About the Church Age:

- 1) The church age is the _____ of seven _____
- 2) The church age began at _____
- 3) The church age ends at the _____

Three Facts About the Intermediate State:

- 1) When believers “fall asleep,” they go _____ to be with the Lord
- 2) Believers who die, live in a _____ state, awaiting resurrection
- 3) Unbelievers who die, enter into _____

Four Improper Responses to Death for Believers in the Church:

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

The One Proper Response to Death for Believers in the Church:

- 1) _____

Questions for Further Application of God’s Word:

GO DEEPER

When did the church age begin? What significant events accompanied the beginning of the church age? What mission did Jesus give his disciples during this age? When does this age come to an end? What age follows it?

Read 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18. What happens to Christians after they die? What happens to Christians who are still alive when Christ returns? When will those who have died in Christ receive resurrection bodies? When will those who are alive at Christ’s coming receive their new bodies? What will these bodies be like? What will they look like?

Read 1 Corinthians 15:35–58. How do Paul’s words in 1 Thessalonians 4:13–18 correspond with 1 Corinthians 15:35–58? Why does Paul mock death in verse 55? Does Paul trivialize death in making these statements? Is death something believers should fear? How does the reality of being “with the Lord” immediately after death affect your fear of dying?

GET PERSONAL

Of the “Four Improper Responses to Death for Believers in the Church” listed above, which have you heard or experienced at funerals? Which have you seen portrayed in movies or television?

Should Christians grieve over death? How is Christian grief different than the grief of an unbeliever? What happens when a Christian’s view of death is all grief and no hope? What happens when it is all hope and no grief? What is the proper way for a Christian to respond to death?

PUT IT INTO PRACTICE

What does it practically look like to grieve *with hope* rather than without it? Start thinking through your own funeral or memorial service. What would you want to be emphasized at that service? What songs would you want sung? What message or messages would you want communicated? How would you encourage people at that funeral to grieve with hope?

ADVANCED QUESTIONS

What are the two great epochs in human history? List the seven dispensations in human history. Does God deal differently with His people during these times? If so, how? How are people saved during these different dispensations? Are people always saved by grace? Would there be salvation for anyone if Christ had not died and risen from the dead?