

Death and the Final Judgment

What is Death? What thoughts do you have about it?



What is Death?

- Death is the separation of the soul from the body.
- Paul says it is the “*deliverance of the soul from prison*” (2 Cor 5:1-4), or a “*departure*” (2 Timothy 4:6) •
- Peter says it is “*putting off the body*” (2 Peter 1:14)
- in Acts, Luke refers to it as “*sleep*” (Acts 13:36).

Particular Judgment

- With death comes judgment.

Paul tells us, “*it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment*”

(Heb 9:27).

This is called the Particular Judgment.

- This is when our relationship with God really matters.

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Luke 16:19-31



- *“There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day. But there was a certain beggar named Lazarus, full of sores, who was laid at his gate, desiring to be fed with the crumbs which fell from the rich man’s table. Moreover the dogs came and licked his sores.*
- *So it was that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom.*

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Luke 16:19-31



- *“Then he cried and said, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.’*
- *But Abraham said, ‘Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.*
- *And besides all this, between us and you there is a great gulf fixed, so that those who want to pass from here to you cannot, nor can those from there pass to us.’*

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Luke 16:19-31



“Then he said, ‘I beg you therefore, father, that you would send him to my father’s house, for I have five brothers, that he may testify to them, lest they also come to this place of torment.’

Abraham said to him, ‘They have Moses and the prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham; but if one goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ But he said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the prophets, neither will they be persuaded though one rise from the dead.’”

Luke 16:19-31

Lazarus and the Rich Man

Luke 16:19-31



What are the implications of this parable?

At death we are separated based on our life choices.

A great chasm exists.

Particular Judgment

- If we don't know Him, how can we become part of His kingdom?
- If we have a personal relationship with God, we know He is merciful. Fear vanishes. Love abides.
- Our **relationship** with God needs to be well established **before** we die.
- What does relationship mean and imply?

Parable of the Talents

- Shortly before His Crucifixion Jesus told his disciples the **parable of the Talents**. Emphasizes His expectations for us to be good stewards of grace He has given us.
(Matt 25: 14 - 30)
- What happened to the one who buried his talent?
 - He was cast in the the “*outer darkness*”.

Day of Judgment

- Jesus goes on to say, on the day of judgment He will separate us
“one from another, as a shepherd divides his sheep from the goats. And he will set the sheep on His right hand, but the goats on the left.”
- *Then the King will say to those on His right hand, Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world....*
- *Then he will say to those on the left hand, Depart from Me, you cursed, into the everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels... An these will go away into everlasting punishment...”* (Matt 25: 31-46)

Sheep or
Goat



His Kingdom
or
Eternal
Punishment

What happens at death?



- The soul leaves the body incurs a struggle, then an ordeal and goes to a state of blessedness or torment according to its deeds.
- What happens between death and the Final Judgment?
 - A mystery.

Universal Resurrection



- At the second coming of our Lord Jesus Christ (Matt 25:31-46) there will be accomplished the universal resurrection of the dead.
- It will be universal and simultaneous; solemn and open; strict and terrible, final and definitive; determining for **all eternity** our fate.

Second Coming - Signs



- When will it happen- 2nd Coming?
- *“of that day and hour no man , no, not the angels of heaven, by My Father only. (Mat 24:36)*
- *It is not for you to know the times of the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power. (Acts 1:7)*
- *Take heed, watch and pray, for ye know not when the time is.... Ad what I say unto all, Watch. (Mark 13:33, 37)*

Second Coming - Signs



- What are the signs?
- *And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come* (Matt 24:14)
- *In the last days perilous time shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers... lovers of pleasures more than lover of God, having a form of godliness, but denying the power thereof* (2 Tim 3:1-5)

Second Coming - Signs



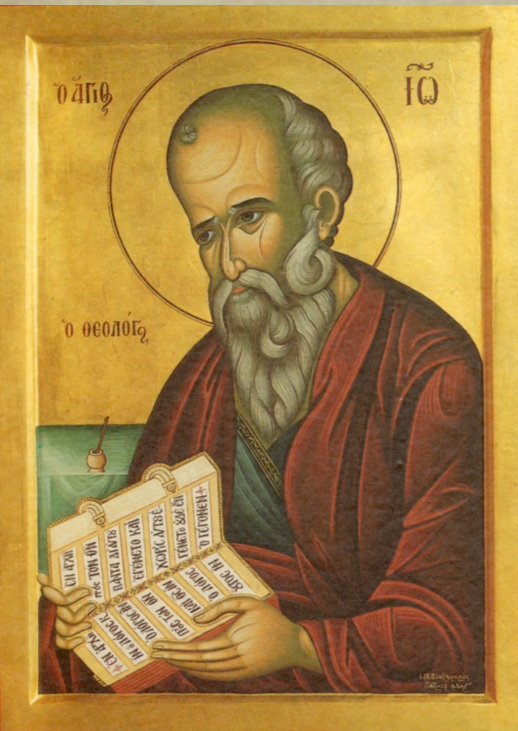
- *The devil will raise up warfare against the Kingdom of Christ through his instrument Antichrist. (2 Thess 2:3-11)*
- He will be deceptive but without power to compel.
- This period will be brief so that every living creature will not be killed off by Antichrist. Will be time of unprecedented suffering.

Second Coming



- *Sudden and obvious to everyone, like lightning.*
(Mat 24:27)
- *There will appear the sign of the Son of man in the sky* (Mat 4:30)
- *He will come surrounded by innumerable angels in all His glory.* (Mat 24: 30, 31)

Resurrection of the Dead



All that are in the graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil unto the resurrection of damnation (John 5:28-29)

- It will be universal and simultaneous

Hope of the Resurrection



- This is what makes us Christian.
- Christ showed us the way through death to a new transfigured life.
- He showed us that we have nothing to fear in death.
- His death was a clear victory over death.

Paul



- *If there is no resurrection of the dead, then Christ is not risen. And if Christ is not risen, then our preaching is empty and your faith is also empty... For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.*

(1 Cor 15:13-15, 20, 22)

John



- *...all who are in the graves will hear His voice and come forth—those who have done good, to the resurrection of life, and those who have done evil, to the resurrection of condemnation.* (John 5:28-29)

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Orthodox View

- Second Coming - time is unknown
- Will be quick and terrible.
- All will be raised at same time.
- We will be reunited with our spiritualized bodies.
- Need to be prepared .
- It is in this life that we prepare and join His Kingdom

Resurrection of the Dead

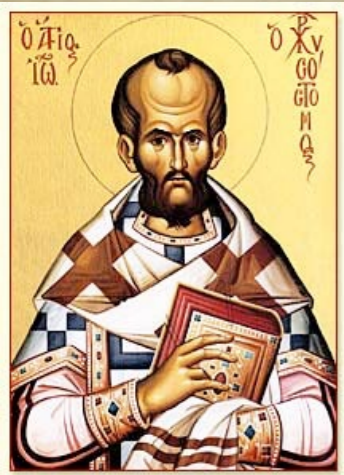
- After the Resurrection what will we be like?
- *Bodies will be transfigured* (1 Cor 15:53)
- *Spiritual, heavenly, without bodily needs, like angels.* (Lk 20:36)

Resurrection of the Dead



- *Everything “is immersed in light and fire and transfigured,” but it is not broken down nor does it become fire. the sewing pin, for example, when placed in fire, is heated and becomes red-hot, as if it were fire, but retains the nature of the metal.*
- *Something similar will occur with the body that will be resurrected. “At the resurrection all the members are raised and all become like fire,” but “each person remains in his own nature and hypostasis, filled completely with the Spirit. - St. Makarios of Egypt*

Resurrection of the Dead



Will not be a new creation...There is an identity shared between the body that died and the body that will be resurrected. St John Chrysostom



“What you sow is not the body which is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or other grain. But God gives it a body as He has chosen, and to each kind of seed its own body.” (1 Cor 15:37-38)

Resurrection of the Dead



“Lo! I tell you a mystery... For this perishable nature must put on the imperishable, and this mortal nature must put on immortality.”

(1 Cor 15: 51-53) Saint Paul



St. Cyril of Jerusalem

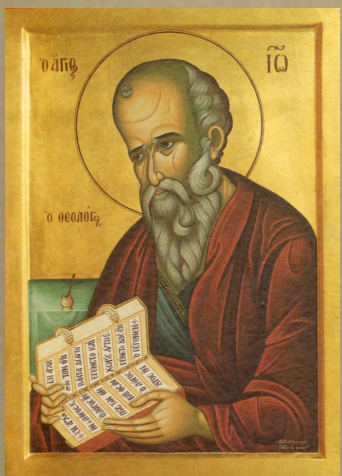
The body after putting on incorruption is “changed” as iron, which comes into contact with fire “becomes fire.” ...The body is changes “as the Lord who resurrects it knows.

Resurrection of the Dead



Paul says,

“It is sown a physical body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body. (1 Cor 15:44)



This resurrection will not be a resurrection of life for all but only for those who are engaged in the good struggle of virtue.

Sinners will be resurrected to the resurrection of judgment. (Jn 5:29)

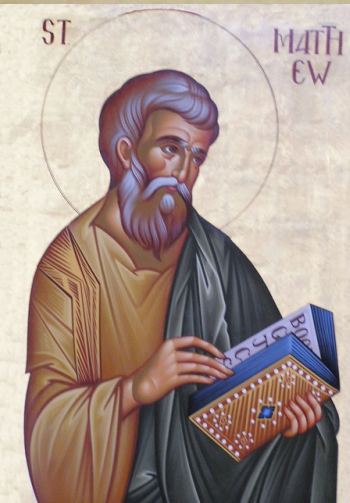
Resurrection of the Dead

- All will be resurrected. So what do we seek?

- Resurrection in glory, in communion with God.

Communion with God is the greatest of all blessings.

Does He Know You?



Key is being in union with God.

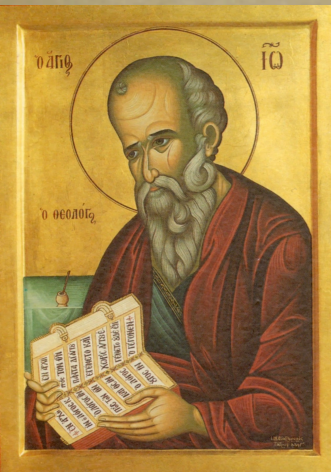
Belong to Christ's kingdom on earth - the church

Not everyone that saith unto me, Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he that doeth the will of my Father, who is in heaven

- *Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied thy name... cast out demons... done many wonderful works? And then I will profess unto them, I never knew you; depart from me, ye that work iniquity. (Mat 7:21-23)*

Does He Know You?

- If our knowledge of God is no more than mental conceptions, then we do not know Him. Having ideas is not enough.



“And now little children, abide in him; that when He shall appear we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming” (John 2”28)

Is the World Eternal?

- We cannot place our hope in this world because Scripture tells us that the world as we know it is not eternal.

Peter writes,

The heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men...

the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up...

Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. (2Peter 3:7, 10, 13)

Is the World Eternal?

*The end of the world will not end in total destruction
but in a complete change and renewal.*

Contemplate These Things

- Saint Dorotheos of Gaza says,
“The Fathers tell us that a man gains possession of the fear of God by keeping the thought of death before his mind and remembering eternal punishment, by examining himself each evening about how he has passed the day and each morning how he has passed the night.” ⁽¹¹³⁾

Contemplate These Things

- Elder Ephiam says,
- *“When we remember death, we find an excellent guide that helps us discover the truth of things. Death says, “Why are you treasuring thing up, why are you proud, why do you boast, O youth, O health, O science? When I come, I will render you your worth! When you are laid in the dark grave, you will know what the profit of earthly good things is!”* (161)

Contemplate These Things

- *The primary feeling should always be fear of God, and the conclusion one should be selfless dedication of yourself to God's will, which is good and saves us. This primary feeling is born out of the vision of the spiritual world...*
- *With pain and fear of God, fall down before God with the words: **“Lord, Who knowest all things, save me, and I will labor according to my strength.”** This is everything.*

God of Love

- God is a God of love who asks us to love Him as He loves us and to love our neighbors as we love ourselves.
- He is most merciful as shown in the story of the Prodigal Son. *(Luke 15:11-32)*
- If you do not have a strong relationship with Him, the first step is to recognize your own condition, muster a little fear, and seek help.

God of Love



- We must not approach Christ out of fear of how we will die and of what will become of us.
- Rather, we must open our hearts to Him, as when we tug at a window curtain and the sun immediately shines in.
- In this way Christ will come to us, that we might truly love Him. This is the best way.
Elder Porphyrios, +1991

God of Love



- *I didn't want to think about hell or about the tollgates. I set them aside. I remembered only the love of God and was glad.*

Fear of God

- The Lord said,
"Watch therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming.
- *But know this, that if the householder had known in what part of the night the thief was coming, he would have watched and would not have let his house be broken into.*
- *Therefore you also must be ready; for the Son of man is coming at an hour you do not expect. "*

Matthew 24:42-47

Imperatives

- Do not procrastinate!
- Become aware of your habits and patterns of thought.
- Stop making excuses!
- Remember always your fate!
- Force yourself to labor!

Imperatives

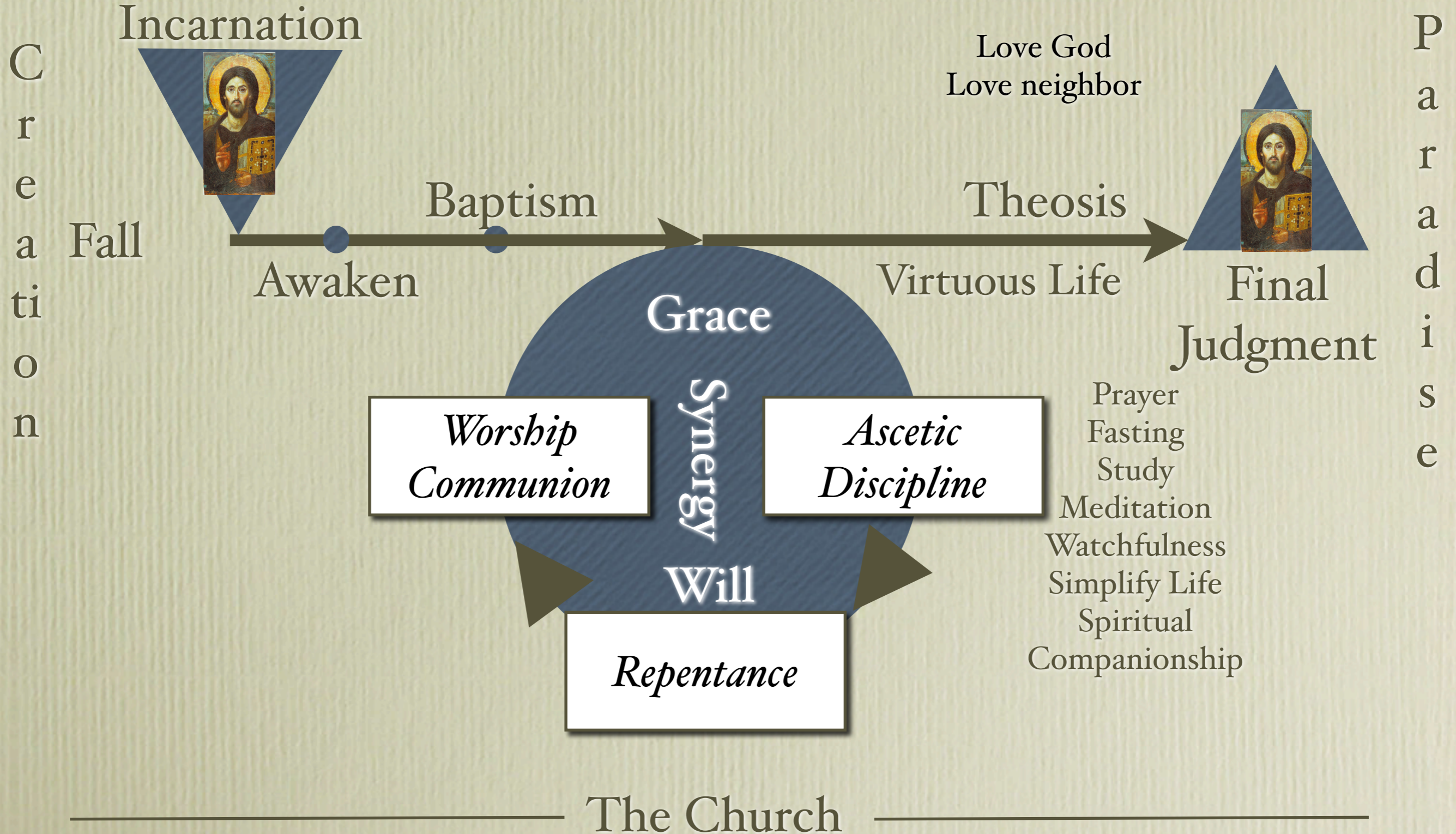
- Go to church regularly!
- Pray daily and fast!
- Read the Bible daily!
- Engage in discussions with other pious people!
- Simplify your Life!
- Be generous with alms!

Orthodox Path to Salvation

- * Faith
- * Fear of God
- * Life of Repentance
- * Prayer
- * Fasting
- * Jesus Prayer
- * Worship and Sacraments
- * Study of Bible & Church Fathers
- * Spiritual Companionship
- * Simplify Life and Slow Down
- * Watchfulness
- * Putting Others First

How to Make
These Part of Your
Daily Life?

Orthodox Life





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