

Follow the BODY!

If you want to get to the bottom of something in a murder mystery it often pays to “follow the money.” Well, in the case of understanding the mystery of death and eternity it is an absolute necessity to “follow the body!”

Jesus said, the hour was coming when all the dead would come out of their graves alive again; those who have done good will be raised to life; and those that have done evil will be raised to condemnation. [see [John 5:28,29](#)] We're not talking zombies, but real live bodies of dead people who have come back to life, having feelings, thoughts and emotions.

Well, what's next for all these people who have come back to life? The Apostle Paul in his letter to Timothy said when the Lord Jesus appeared and set up his kingdom (on earth) he would judge the living and the dead (made alive again). [see [2 Timothy 4:1](#)] No, these are not the living dead. Although, unless their rotting clothes get some new life too, this is going to be a pretty raggedly looking group. Jesus described that on his return to the earth that the people of all nations would be gathered before his throne and he would “separate” them, like a shepherd divides sheep from goats. He would put the sheep on his right hand and the goats on his left. The sheep will inherit the kingdom and the goats are headed for eternal fire and eternal punishment. [see [Matthew 25:31-46](#)] Every man has an appointment with death and after that every man will face being judged. [see [Hebrews 9:27](#)] Paul said, God has set a day for judging the world. [see [Acts 17:31](#)] It is absolutely important to understand that the judgment hasn't happened yet!

What happens to the bodies of the righteous? Paul said, this perishable body made of flesh and blood cannot be a part of the future kingdom of God. So God prepared new immortal bodies for the righteous in heaven that will envelope their mortal bodies, transforming them. [see [2 Corinthians 5:1-4](#)] He revealed further that not all believers would see death (an exception to what [Hebrews 9:27](#) states); at the coming of the Lord [see [1 Corinthians 15:22,23](#)] in the time it takes to blink an eye, their perishable mortal bodies will change to become imperishable immortal bodies; dead believers will be raised and their bodies will experience the same process [see [1 Corinthians 15:50-55](#)].

No immortal bodies are prepared for the unrighteous. So let's see what happens to the bodies the unrighteous. Not only are the bodies of the unrighteous dead raised back into a conscious existence and judged at the appearance of the Lord; but according to Paul, the Lord will take vengeance on those that do not know God with flaming fire punishing them with everlasting destruction from the

Lord. [see [2 Thessalonians 1:7-9](#)] Peter said this earth (and the heavens) have been reserved for fire being kept until the day of judgment and destruction of ungodly men. [see [2 Peter 3:7](#)] There is a reoccurring theme here --- destruction of the ungodly (including their mortal bodies) with fire!