



Sermon Discussion Guide

Sept. 13 & 14, 2025

"What Happens After We Die?"

[1 Corinthians 15:51-57](#)

During this new series, we will dive into some of the most common and poignant questions about life after death. While we have been given the assurance of everlasting life through Jesus, this topic can stir up a lot of emotions. Join us as we see what the Bible has to say.

PRAY & CONNECT

Open in prayer and invite the Holy Spirit into your conversation. Ask God for wisdom and discernment and trust him to guide you. Take time to recap the message or view it on hopeonline.tv. Did you have any ah-ha moments where you felt convicted, compelled, or inspired during the sermon? What's been on your mind this week? Have you been able to apply the message to your everyday life?

GROW

Read [Psalm 46:1-3, 10](#) – *"Our Refuge and Strength"*

- In light of "God is our refuge and strength," what would turning to God first look like for you this week?
- Which current fear feels like "mountains crumbling," and how has worship or Scripture steadied you before?
- What keeps you from being still and knowing God is God?
- Who around you needs a "safe haven" this week, and how can you bring God's steadiness to them? What peacemaking step will you take (listen without fixing, pray with them, offer practical help) and when?

Read [Matthew 5:43-47](#) – *"Love for Enemies"*

- How does Jesus' command to "love your enemies" confront your natural instincts? What act of kindness could you do for someone difficult in your life this week?
- Where have you been content with "easy love," and what step could stretch you toward "enemy love"?
- When Jesus says to pray for those who persecute you, what does that look like in your daily rhythms (news, workplace conflict, social media)? What short prayer could you say every time bitterness rises this week?
- How might loving difficult people point others to the Father?

Read [Romans 12:19-21](#) – *"Love in Action"*

- How does Paul's reminder that vengeance belongs to God challenge you?
- How might trusting God's justice free you from bitterness or resentment? Who do you need to release to God in prayer today?
- When have you seen kindness toward an "enemy" make a difference (yours or someone else's)?
- Paul says we overcome evil with good—what does that look like in a divided world right now?

Read [1 John 2:9-11](#) – *"Love and Hatred for Fellow Believers"*

- What does John mean when he says someone who claims to live in the light but hates a brother or sister is actually still in darkness?
- How do you see the contrast between light and darkness in your own relationships?
- Why is love such a key marker of being "in the light"? How has someone's love for you drawn you closer to God?
- John warns that hatred leads to spiritual blindness—how have you seen this play out in real life? What habits or practices could you adopt to keep your heart soft toward others? How can you stay aware of blind spots where hate or resentment might be growing?

APPLY

Pick one of the applications below to put into practice this week.

- **Pause and be still.** Take five minutes each day this week to sit quietly, breathe deeply, and repeat Psalm 46:10 ("Be still and know that I am God") until it sinks in. Write down any worries that come to mind and surrender them to God in prayer.
- **Love beyond preference.** Think of one person you disagree with or find difficult to love. Do a tangible act of kindness for them this week—a note, a text, or a prayer spoken specifically for their good—asking God to soften your heart.
- **Live with heaven in view.** Each morning this week, remind yourself that most of your existence will be spent with God in eternity. Choose one habit, attitude, or relationship that needs to change in light of that truth and take a first practical step today.