



## WCF Prayer:

### Chapter 32 - Of The State Of Men After Death & Of The Resurrection Of The Dead

Gracious Lord and Heavenly Father,

You formed us from the dust of the earth and breathed life into our lungs. For every heartbeat and every breath, we give you thanks.

Living Lord, we confess our rebellion and acknowledge the justice of your decree that our rebellion deserves death. You are faithful to your Word, constant in both blessing and judgment. We see the mark of death all around us and not least in our own physical frailty. Our graveyards and crematoria are sombre reminders that our bodies return to the dust from which they came.

Yet, Lord, what hope your grace extends! We thank you for the promise that as you created our souls with immortality, so the souls of all who trust in the Lord Jesus will at death return immediately to you their God. We rejoice in the Good News that, through the Lord Jesus Christ, at that moment these souls are perfected in holiness and received into your highest heavens. What joy to know that by your grace all who die in faith will see you face to face in light and glory and actively enjoy your presence.

Yet though that joy will be of unimaginable magnitude, your Word tells us that even this joy is not the end point of your blessing because our souls will then await the fullness of redemption in the reunion of body and spirit.

Holy and Just God it is right our hearts are heavy for those who are unrepentant, whose souls will at their death also live, but in separation from you. Though just and right, we ache that for them there will only be the darkness of hell as they await also the awful Day of final judgment. Even their wait will be subject to your punishment. Thank you Lord for the clarity of your Word which tells us so clearly that only these two destinations await our souls at death.

What delight to know that on the Last Day, your children will be changed in the twinkling of an eye. Lord it is beyond our understanding yet we rejoice in the knowledge that with believers already dead all your children will receive back their very own bodies with wonderful new eternal qualities.

Holy God, we shudder at the contrast of that final hour: as believers we delight in the coming of that Last Day knowing that the bodies and souls of the just shall be raised by your Spirit to glory but the bodies of the unjust will be raised to dishonour.

And Lord how can we begin to comprehend that all who die in faith will on that Final Day find their bodies given the same qualities as the glorious body of our risen Saviour.

What grace and mercy, what love!

**Amen**