

AFTERLIFE

WHAT COMES NEXT?

INTRO

Are you a rule-follower or rule-breaker? How much time did you spend in the principal's office as a kid? Any regrets from your actions?

DISCUSSION

1. Mike mentions that many students ask about how hard a class will be before signing up, and they want to know what will be on the final. How does this analogy relate to our understanding of God's judgment? In what ways might knowing about the "final exam" of our faith impact how we live our lives?
2. Reflect on 1 Corinthians 3:10-15. What do you think it means to build with "gold, silver, costly stones" versus "wood, hay or straw"? How can we ensure we're building with materials of lasting value in our spiritual lives?
3. Verses 14 and 15 say: If what has been built survives, the builder will receive a reward. If it is burned up, the builder will suffer loss but yet will be saved—even though only as one escaping through the flames. How does knowing this affect how you live your life each day?
4. Discuss the concept of rewards in heaven. How do you feel about the idea that not everyone will receive the same rewards? Does this motivate you to live differently, or does it make you uncomfortable? Why?
5. The sermon concludes by emphasizing God's love and the provision of Jesus for our sins. How does the reality of judgment enhance your appreciation for God's love and grace? How can we balance the concepts of God's love on one hand and judgment on the other in our Christian walk?
6. For further discussion: read Matthew 25:31-46, the parable of the sheep and goats. Reflect as a group on what it means that Jesus welcomes into his kingdom those who have cared for the least of these and rejects those who have not. How does this passage square with our understanding of salvation through faith in Jesus versus a salvation through works?

