

What Happens After Death? Part Two: Heaven

“...but just as it is written, “Things which eye has not seen and ear has not heard, and which have not entered the heart of man, all that God has prepared for those who love Him.” For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God.” (1 Corinthians 2:9-10)

“For our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory, by the exertion of the power that He has even to subject all things to Himself.” (Philippians 3:20-21)

“It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey toward heaven... to which we should subordinate all other concerns of life. Why should we labor for or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end and true happiness?” Jonathan Edwards

“If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.” C.S. Lewis

What is heaven like?

“And he carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God.” Revelation 21:10-11

- **Heaven is part of God's creation** (Genesis 1:1; Matthew 5:18)
“In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.” Genesis 1:1
- **Heaven is the place where God dwells** (Isaiah 66:1; Matthew 6:9; 7:21; 10:32-33; 18:10, 19)
“Thus says the Lord, ‘Heaven is My throne and the earth is My footstool. Where then is a house you could build for Me? And where is a place that I may rest?’” Isaiah 66:1
- **Heaven is a place with a specific population** (Matthew 25:34)
“Then the King will say to those on His right, ‘Come, you who are blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.’” Matthew 25:34
 - **Angels come from heaven** (Matthew 28:2; Luke 22:43; Luke 2:15)
 - **Jesus came from** (John 3:13,31; 6:42), **returned to** (Acts 1:9-11; Hebrews 9:24), **resides in** (Acts 7:55-56; Romans 8:34) **and will return again from heaven** (John 14:2-3; Acts 1:9-11; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-18)
 - **The redeemed of the Lord are and will be in heaven** (Daniel 7:27; Revelation 4:4-11)
- **Heaven is the place for our glorified bodies** (1 Corinthians 15:40-44; Revelation 20:10; 21:27; 22:14-15)
“There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the glory of the earthly is another.” - 1 Corinthians 15:40

“The freedom of heaven, then, is the freedom from sin; not that the believer just happens to be free from sin, but that he is so constituted or reconstituted that he cannot sin. He doesn't want to sin, and he does not want to want to sin.” Paul Helm

Where is heaven?

“But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells.” (2 Peter 3:13)

- **The new earth is the “heaven” where we will spend eternity with God** (Isaiah 65:17-19; 66:22-23; Revelation 21:1-4)
“And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God...” (Revelation 21:2)
- **The end of the story is not that we will go to heaven, but heaven will come to us** (1 Kings 6:19-20; Revelation 21:15-22)
“Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them...” (Revelation 21:3)

“God will make the new earth his dwelling place... Heaven and earth will then no longer be separated as they are now, but they will be one. But to leave the new earth out of consideration when we think of the final state of believers is greatly to impoverish biblical teaching about the life to come.” Anthony Hoekema

What will we do in heaven? (Some points adapted from Mark Hitchcock, "The Complete Book of Bible Prophecy")

"Then the righteous will shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father." Matthew 13:43a

- **We will worship without distraction** (1 Corinthians 10:31; Revelation 4:4-11; 5:8-14; 7:9-17, 11:15-18; 15:2-4)
"Whether, then, you eat or drink or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God." 1 Corinthians 10:31
- **We will serve without exhaustion** (Revelation 7:15; Matthew 25:14-30; John 5:17; Genesis 3:17-19; Revelation 22:3)
For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. Revelation 7:15
- **We will fellowship without fear** (Hebrews 12:22-24; Matthew 8:11; 17:1-8; 1 Thessalonians 4:14-18; Mark 10:29-30)
"I say to you that many will come from east and west, and recline at the table with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven..." Matthew 8:11
- **We will learn without fatigue** (1 Corinthians 13:8-12; Psalm 145:3; Ephesians 2:4-7)
"Great is the Lord, and highly to be praised, and His greatness is unsearchable." Psalm 145:3
- **We will rest without boredom** (Genesis 2:1-3; Exodus 20:9-11; Leviticus 25:3-5; Hebrews 4:9-11; Revelation 14:13)
"And I heard a voice from heaven, saying, 'Write, 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on!' 'Yes,' says the Spirit, 'so that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow with them.'" Revelation 14:13

"To come to Thee is to come home from exile, to come to land out of the raging storm, to come to rest after long labor, to come to the goal of my desires and the summit of my wishes." Charles Spurgeon

- **We will feast at God's table** (Luke 22:28-30; Revelation 19:9)
"You are those who have stood by Me in My trials; and just as My Father has granted Me a kingdom, I grant you that you may eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." Luke 22:28-30
- **We will see Jesus face to face** (Exodus 33:11,18-23; Psalm 27:4; Job 19:25-27; Revelation 22:4)
"...they will see His face, and His name will be on their foreheads." Revelation 22:4

"Not only will we see his face and live, but we will likely wonder if we ever lived before we saw his face!" Randy Alcorn

How can I be sure I am going to heaven?

"He who believes in the Son has eternal life; but he who does not obey the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 3:36

- **There is only one way to heaven, but many ways to Jesus** (John 14:6; Acts 4:12)
"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.'" John 14:6
- **We are called to show others the way to Jesus** (Matthew 28:19-20)
"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you..." Matthew 28:19-20

"If sinners be damned, at least let them leap to Hell over our dead bodies. And if they perish, let them perish with our arms wrapped about their knees, imploring them to stay. If Hell must be filled, let it be filled in the teeth of our exertions, and let not one go unwarned and unprepared for." Charles Spurgeon

LifeGroup Questions:

1. What is one thing you are most curious about in heaven, or more simplistic, what's the first question you are going to ask God?
2. Which person are you most looking forward to a joyful reunion with in heaven? Which person in your life do you need to pursue to talk about the joy of heaven?
3. Do you know that you are going to heaven after you die? What do you base your security on?

Next Steps:

1. **Place your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord today.** Use the booklet in the seat rack in front of you called, "The Way to Connect with God" to help guide you through this life-changing decision.
2. **Proclaim you are a follower of Jesus through baptism.** Be baptized today! If not today, we will have another baptism service this summer at the beach, August 23, 2015. Learn more about baptisms at calvarylife.org/baptism



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