

# **Heaven**

## **A SCRIPTURAL ANALYSIS**

**Three Rivers Fellowship  
Wednesday Night Bible  
Study**

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## Lesson 1 – The Importance of Truth in our Quest for Heaven

On November 29, 2013, the day after Thanksgiving in 2013, when people's thoughts turn to Christmas, the headline banner on CNN.com read "Is heaven real?"

What followed was a somewhat questioning look at people who had survived "near death" experiences, and returned with descriptions of Heaven. Their descriptions were everywhere. Not a word of Scripture. See CNN report attached hereto.

Even Christian bookstores abound with books detailing trips to and from heaven. The current one catching so much attention is The Boy Who Came Back From Heaven (A True Story), by Kevin Malarkey. It is the account of the family's automobile accident in 2004 in which his six year son was nearly decapitated. He claims his son was taken to heaven, and while the angels were accompanying him, the Devil was telling him that the accident was his fault. This book presents ideas and images about heaven that are not in the Bible, but the author did state:

We all need to be on guard against counterfeit truth. Anything that doesn't square with the Bible is counterfeit.

P. 189. I agree with that statement. The problem is that most of his statements about heaven do not "square with the Bible".

The purpose of this study is to gather Scripture together that deals with the topic of Heaven – where and when it is, what it's like, who will be there, what will we do there – and other questions, and provide a solid Biblical foundation to answer these questions. I really want to focus on Scripture so we know what the word of God says about Heaven.

Our guiding principle will be that set forth in **John 17:17**, as Jesus prayed to His Father that He would keep and protect us who remained. What was His prayer?

So, we will stay in the truth of the Word – in the Word of Truth.

Let's start by answering the questions raised by CNN – do people die, go to Heaven, then come back? It's similar to the question posed in **Proverbs 30:4**. What is that question?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Does the Scripture answer this question? **John 3:13** \_\_\_\_\_..

What is the answer? \_\_\_\_\_.

### **Biblical Descriptions of “Visits” to Heaven**

All accounts of “visits” to Heaven in Scripture are visions, not journeys by dead or almost dead people. Let's confirm this fact – and along the way, note the reaction of people who have had the visions of the true Heaven – a reaction, by the way, that is largely lost on the near death experience folks – they focus on the friends that greet them, the things they do in “heaven” and the like. But, let's see the Scripture and the reactions to the True Heaven:

#### **Isaiah 6: 1-6**

How did Isaiah experience this? (v.1) – “I \_ \_ \_”

What was his reaction? (v. 5) \_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Revelation 1:10**

John was what? “in the \_ \_ \_ \_ \_”

What was his reaction? **Revelation 1:17**

\_\_\_\_\_.

#### **Acts 7:55-56**

How did Stephen experience Heaven?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_

**Ezekiel 1:1**

How did Ezekiel experience heaven?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_.

What was his reaction as noted in **Ezekiel 1:28**?

\_\_\_\_\_.

So, it is important that we focus on the Word itself. It gives us a very good picture of Heaven, one that we know is absolutely true. What God has revealed in Scripture is the only truly legitimate place to get a clear understanding of Heaven.

**Discussion Question:** Why could it be misleading and dangerous to use personal near death experiences as a basis for our understanding of Heaven?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What does **I Corinthians 4:6** say? Try the ESV for clarity

\_\_\_\_\_.

Review these two passages and explain what they tell us about the importance, and the sole importance, of the Word of God:

**Revelation 22:18-19 & Deuteronomy 4:2**

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Question: Why should we study about Heaven? Is it right that we focus on this?

\_\_\_\_\_.

What truth does **Ecclesiastes 3:11** teach us? \_\_\_\_\_.

What do these verses of Scripture tell you about whether our focus should be “Heavenward?”

**Colossians 3: 1-2**

**2 Corinthians 4:18**

**Philippians 3:20**

**Hebrews 11:16**

### **CONCLUSION**

Our imagination is a God given gift. But our imagination is not a substitute for truth, nor is it a substitute for God’s infinite knowledge and wisdom. Remember **1 Corinthians 2:9**, which states:

*But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.*

## Lesson 2 – The “What” of Heaven?

The Bible uses the word “heaven” almost 500 times, in about 460 different verses.

**Hebrew** – The Hebrew word usually translated as “heaven” is “*shamayin*,” which is correctly translated as “the heights.”

**Greek** – the Greek word translated “heaven” is “*ouranos*,” from which we get the name of the planet Uranus. It means “lofty” or “raised up.”

These terms are actually used in Scripture to refer to three (3) different places:

1. **The atmospheric heavens – the atmosphere that covers the Earth (the sky above us)**

**Genesis 7:11-12**

**Matthew 6:26**

2. **The planetary heavens – where the stars, moon and planets are.**

**Genesis 1:14-17**

**Matthew 24:29**

3. **Our focus – the Heaven where God dwells with his angels and His saints who have died.**

**2 Corinthians 12:2**

Question – following CNN, Is Heaven a real place? Or perhaps just a “state of mind?”

It is a \_\_\_\_\_.

What word did Jesus use two (2) times – and refer to by a pronoun a third (3<sup>rd</sup>) time- to describe Heaven in **John 14:2-4**?

ANSWER: \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_.

**God dwells in Heaven**

**Deuteronomy 26:15**

**Isaiah 57:15**

**Isaiah 63:15**

**Matthew 5:16**

**Matthew 16:17**

**But, God is everywhere**

**1 Kings 8:27**

**Heaven is uniquely His home – where His throne is, and where  
Worship flows to Him**

**Matthew 5:34**

**Matthew 7:11**

**Angels dwell in Heaven**

**Matthew 18:10**

**Jesus came from heaven**

**John 6:33**



**John 6:38**

**John 6:41**

**Jesus Returned to Heaven**

**Romans 8:34**

**Believers are there and will be there**

**John 14:2-3**

**2 Corinthians 5:8**

## **Lesson 3 – The “When” of Heaven?**

It is important to understand that Scripture also gives us three views of Heaven from a time perspective– and certain things happen in each period that are unique to that period. It is necessary to understand which time period the Bible speaks of in order to correctly understand Scripture:

### **1. Heaven in the Past (Before time)**

**Genesis 1:1**

**John 1:1-3**

**Job 38:1-6**

### **2. Heaven in the Present**

Heaven is now a real place for departed spirits, where believers enter God’s presence when they die.

**Genesis 5:24**

**2 Kings 2:11**

**Philippians 1:23**

**Philippians 1:21**

**Luke 16:19-26**

**Luke 23:42-43**

Note: The word here translated “paradise” is a word the Greeks borrowed from the Persians. It means the same thing as the word we translated “heaven” in verses like 2 Corinthians 12:2 (referring to the third heaven), and can also mean Garden..

### **Glimpses into Heaven during this Time:**

**1. Ezekiel 1** – Ezekiel was transported to Heaven in a vision, and he described in vivid detail what Heaven and the throne of God are like.

**2. Revelation 4** – again, notice the description of the throne and the majesty of God

### **3. Heaven in the Future – The New Heaven and the New Earth**

God told us through Isaiah there would be a change in the heaven and the earth at some point in the future.

#### **Isaiah 65:17-19**

Peter reminds us that the day is coming when the heavens and the earth that now exist will be consumed in **2 Peter 3:7**:

But Revelation 21 provides a glimpse into the fulfillment of the promise to Isaiah. But, let's set the stage for what we are getting ready to read:

- The Battle of Armageddon has been fought (Revelation 19);
- The earthly, millennial reign of Christ has come to an end (Revelation 20:7); and
- The Great White Throne Judgment has happened – where God sentences the ungodly to eternal hell.

THEN, let's pick up the text:

#### **Revelation 21:1- 2**

And there are actions described here that occur at this point in time:

#### **Revelation 21: 3-4**

**Do not be fooled – this is a physical place also.**

#### **Revelation 21:9 - 27**

#### **Questions from Revelation 21:9-27:**

How does John describe the city in **verse 11**?

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Why would the city have a wall and gates? See **verses 12-14**. What happened to the enemies of God in **Revelation 20:14-15**?

\_\_\_\_\_.

So is the wall for security? \_\_\_\_\_

What does the wall mean? What would it symbolize?

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_.

## Heavenly Measurements

### Revelation 21:15-16

What shape is it? If its length, width and height are equal, it looks like a \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANSWER:** \_\_\_\_\_

Is there any other Biblical support for the New Jerusalem being in this shape?

### I Kings 6:8

What shape was the original temple Solomon built? \_\_\_\_\_.

**ANSWER: Also a** \_\_\_\_\_

Each measurement was 1500 miles. Are these measurements symbolic? Probably not, since in verse 17 the walls are even measured.

So, envision this – a city with length, width and height of 1500 miles. That is the distance from Dickson TN to Flagstaff, Arizona to put it in perspective. It's that long, that wide, and that high.

That is 2.25 million square miles. Consider this:

- Greater London today is only 621 Square miles
- Manhattan is only 22.7 Square miles
- The land area of the contiguous United States is 2.9 Million square miles

Verses 18-21 describe the building materials. Describe them?

So, what is the Scriptural truth about the “pearly gates?”

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### **What Heaven lacks**

According to Revelation 21:22, what did John not see in its typical form?

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The Heavenly City has no \_\_\_\_\_ . (verses 23-24)

What do verses 25-27 tell us will be lacking?

The is no more \_\_\_\_\_ (Revelation 22:3)

As we leave today’s lesson, please remember Paul’s words in **2 Corinthians 4:18 – 5:1**:

***While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.***

## **Lesson 4 – What will we be like in Heaven?**

This is one of those answers that depends upon **WHEN** we are talking about. Believers ARE in heaven now, and will be in heaven after the bodily resurrection. It is necessary to distinguish our condition in Heaven between these two times.

### **Believers in heaven - now (prior to the Rapture/Resurrection)**

God made human beings body and soul together. Death results in the separation of the body and the soul. Our bodies go to the grave and our spirits go to the Lord. The separation continues until the resurrection:

#### **John 5:28-29**

Right now the souls of believers who have died are in heaven. Someday their bodies will be resurrected and joined to their spirits, and they will enjoy the eternal perfection of body and soul.

### **Present with the Lord Immediately After Death**

#### **Acts 7:59**

Let's closely review what Paul tells us in detail in **2 Corinthians 5:1–8**.

### **Paul's Three Preferences About Living and Dying**

#### **1. To Be Alive When Christ Returns**

His first preference was not to die at all but to be alive when Jesus returns and instead of having to experience the separation of soul and body, that he would experience the transformation of his mortal body into an immortal one that would live with Christ forever in the kingdom.

He says this in **2 Corinthians 5:4**, "While we are in this tent [this temporary, mortal body], we groan, being burdened, because we don't want to be unclothed [i.e., bodiless], but to be clothed upon, in order that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life." He does not want to be "unclothed" in the sense of being stripped of his body. He wants his body to be swallowed up into the new spiritual, immortal body at the last trumpet when Christ descends from heaven. That's Paul's first preference.

## 2. To Die and Be with Christ

He knows he cannot know, let alone control, when Christ is coming. So he is not sure if that first preference will come true. So he expresses his second preference, namely, to die and be with Christ. In **2 Corinthians 5:8**, he says, "We are of good courage and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." Rather than groan here and bear the struggles and sicknesses and sin of this life, he would rather die and be with the Lord.

In **Philippians 1:21**, he says, "For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain." He struggles with the need to stay here for the sake of ministry against the longing to be done with the struggle and enjoy the immediate presence of Jesus. In **Philippians 1:23**, he says "I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better." So his second preference is this: if God wills for Christ to be delayed, then Paul would rather go to be with him—if Christ does not yet come to be with us—even if he must be stripped (even painfully stripped) of his body.

## 3. To Go On Walking by Faith Not by Sight

The third preference is that, if God wills, and if it is better for the people of the Lord and the glory of Christ, Paul is willing to remain on the earth and to walk by faith and not by sight. In **2 Corinthians 5:6-7**, he says, "We are always of good courage and know that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord, for we walk by faith and not by sight." He said to the Philippians that he would remain and continue with them all for the advancement and joy of their faith (Philippians 1:25). So his third preference is to press on with the ministry and use his time on the earth to advance faith and joy in others as far as he can.

This means that the great final hope of the Christian is not to die and be freed from our bodies, but to be raised with new, glorious bodies, or, best of all, to be alive at the second coming so that we do not have to lose our body temporarily and be "naked" (souls without bodies) until the resurrection.

## **Conclusion**

The souls of the believers at their deaths are made perfect in holiness and they immediately pass into glory; their bodies rest in their graves until the resurrection. Upon death a person's spirit / soul are separated from the body, free from sin and suffering. Death brings the believer immediately into God's presence. It is the spirit that goes to Heaven now, but a spirit body that we really cannot describe.

### **Rev. 6:9-11**

It is important to note that the "interim" body is in some sense at least a real body. Those in this state are not "left naked" (**2 Corinthians 5:3**) but are given white robes to wear. **Revelation 6:11**.

### **Believers in Heaven (After the Rapture/Resurrection)**

So, at some point, do we get bodies? Absolutely. This next section will describe when and what our glorified bodies will be like.

### **The bodily resurrection**

First Corinthians 15 is the definitive chapter on the subject of resurrection. To deny an actual, physical resurrection is to embrace something other than genuine Christianity:

What does **1 Corinthians 15:16-17** tell us about the importance of a belief in the bodily resurrection for believers?

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There will be a day when the bodies of the ungodly will be raised from the graves and joined to their spirits. They will then stand, body and soul, before the judgment throne of God and will be cast bodily into the lake of fire

### **Revelation 20:11-15**



Christians need not dread that judgment. Explain each verse.....

1. **Romans 8:1** .
2. **Romans 8:23** - We eagerly await the redemption of our bodies.
3. **2 Corinthians 5:2** - We long to put on the heavenly dwelling.

So, what will our bodies be like. Well, the Bible gives us one huge explanation:

### 1 John 3:2

So the best picture of what we'll be like in heaven is the resurrection body of Jesus Christ. Christ's glorified body is described as shining like the sun in its strength. **Revelation 1:16**. In an Old Testament promise, Scripture compares our glorified bodies to the shining of the moon and stars: "Those who are wise shall shine like the brightness of the sky above; and those who turn many to righteousness, like the stars forever and ever" **Daniel 12:3**.

What was Christ's body like? What do these verses tell us about the Risen Lord?

1. Christ's resurrection body was the same body as before, not a whole new one. After He arose, the tomb was empty. The body itself was resurrected—the very same body, but in a glorified state.
2. **John 20:27; Luke 24:39.** \_\_\_\_\_.
3. **Luke 24:13-18.**\_\_\_\_\_.
4. **Luke 24:42-43.** \_\_\_\_\_.
5. **John 20:19.** \_\_\_\_\_.
6. **Mark 16:12.**\_\_\_\_\_.
7. **Luke 24:36.**\_\_\_\_\_.
8. **Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9.**\_\_\_\_\_.

Our bodies will be exactly like that. They will be real, physical, genuinely human bodies—the very same bodies we have while on this earth—yet wholly perfected and glorified.

### **When do we get these bodies?**

1 Thessalonians 4 describes how the earthly bodies of believers are reunited with their spirits. At the trumpet of God, “the dead in Christ will rise first. Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.” **1 Thessalonians 4:16-17.**

**Let’s get into this Scripture and understand.**

### **Refocusing on Our Final Hope: Bodily Resurrection**

#### **The Comfort Paul Offered to the Thessalonians**

When the church in Thessalonica lost believing loved ones, the main comfort that Paul offered was not that they were with Christ (as true and wonderful as that is), but that they would be raised bodily from the dead in time to participate physically in the coming of Christ. He said:

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:15**

**Precede in What Sense?**

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:16**

#### **1 Thessalonians 4:17**

**"With the Lord"**

#### **How Does this Happen**

**1 Corinthians 15:35-58**

#### **The Dead Will Be Raised and They Will Be Changed**

#### **An Analogy to Seeds and Plants**

Paul uses a series of comparisons to explain the resurrection of the body. The first is an illustration borrowed from Christ's own teaching. Jesus said, "Truly, truly, I say to you, unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it bears much fruit" **John 12:24**.

In **1 Corinthians 15: 37–38**, Paul compares the resurrection to what happens to a seed when it goes into the ground. "That which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. But God gives it a body just as he wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own." The point is that there is connection and continuity between the simple seed and the beautiful plant. When you plant a wheat seed, you don't get a barley plant. But on the other hand there is difference. A plant is more beautiful than a seed.

Verses 42–44 apply the analogy to the resurrection body: "So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable body, it is raised an imperishable body; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body."

In verse 35, Paul employs a second illustration to reply to the doubter's challenge, "With what kind of body do they come?" The scoffer's question suggests that it is absurd to think normal human flesh would be fit for life in heaven. Paul's reply points out that it is absurd to think of the resurrection body as "normal" human flesh.

After all, even in our limited earthly knowledge, "not all flesh is the same, but there is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish" **1 Corinthians 15:39**. The resurrected body will no doubt be a different variety of flesh than we know from earthly experience. It will be literal human flesh, but gloriously and perfectly so. It will be as different from our earthly flesh as fish flesh is from bird flesh.

Making another comparison, Paul says, "There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory" **1 Corinthians 15:40-41**.

Tying all these illustrations together, Paul concludes:

So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power. It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.

**1 Corinthians 15:42-44.**

## **Lesson 5 – Wrong Doctrines about Heaven and What Happens to Believers When They Die**

By this time, I hope you have seen what the Bible teaches about what happens when believers die, and what Heaven will be like – generally. Next lesson, we will get into some specific questions about heaven, but before we do that, I want to equip you to deal with the false doctrines.

### **Soul Sleep**

**The Doctrine** – The soul of a believer who dies remains unconscious until the resurrection

**Modern Day Proponent** – Seventh-Day Adventists

**Scriptural “Basis”** – They point out that the word “sleep” is often used in the Scripture as a synonym for death.

**John 11:11**

**I Thessalonians 4:14**

**The Rebuttal** – The “sleep” referred to in these verses has to do with the body, not the soul.

**Matthew 27:52**

**2 Corinthians 5:8**

**Revelation 14: 1-4; 13**

## **Purgatory**

**The Doctrine** – Justification is an ongoing process that depends on the degree of real, personal righteous we obtain. Christ's righteousness which is imputed to us is insufficient to save – we have to do something more. The theory basically is – if perfection is required to enter Heaven, no one who had just died – i.e., stopped being human – could immediately enter heaven. The remaining imperfections have to be worked out. Purgatory solves this problem for these people who do not believe in the sufficiency of Christ's death.

**Modern Day Proponent** – Roman Catholic Church

**The Catholic Church has defined purgatory as follows:**

"The place and state in which souls suffer for a while and are purged after death, before they go to Heaven, on account of their sins. Venial sins, which have never in life been remitted by an act of repentance or love or by good deeds, and grave sins, the guilt of which with its eternal punishment has indeed been removed by God after an act of repentance but for which there is still left a debt of temporal punishment due to his justice on account of the imperfection of that repentance, must be purged away after death by the pain of intense longing for God, whose blissful vision is delayed, and also, as is commonly taught, by some pain of sense inflicted probably by material fire."

A Catholic Dictionary, 1951.

So, according to this doctrine, are we justified by Christ's death?

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What does **Romans 4:24-25** say?

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Conclusion - it is all about the right view of justification.

**Scriptural “Basis” – Good question** - some use:

**Luke 23:42-43**

But we have already noted that the word here translated “paradise” is basically the same word we translated “heaven” in verses like 2 Corinthians 12:2 (referring to the third heaven). But. Let’s look at **2 Corinthians 12:2-4** in more detail and you will see these concepts are the same – they talk about Heaven:

**The Rebuttal** – This doctrine simply does not exist. It is contrary to Scripture, and a history lesson does not hurt.

What did Jesus say in **John 5:24**? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

What did Jesus tell the thief on the cross in **Luke 23:43**?

\_\_\_\_\_ - not in a while – you shall be with me in  
\_\_\_\_\_ - was it purgatory? Limbo? A place of suffering?

But the one occasion where Jesus actually declared someone "justified" provides the best insight into the doctrine of salvation by Grace alone as He taught it in **Luke 18:9-14**:

That parable shocked Jesus' listeners! They "trusted in themselves that they were righteous" (v. 9)--the very definition of self-righteousness. Their theological heroes were the Pharisees, who held to the most rigid legalistic standards. As to the righteousness which is in the Law," they considered themselves "blameless" (cf. Phil. 3:5-6).

Why did the doctrine of purgatory arise? Although some ideas actually predated Christ, the doctrine itself came out of the middle ages due to greed. Remember, to be a Catholic, you have to support continual sacrifices, and why do we need them?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Purgatory is what makes the whole system work. Take out Purgatory and it's a hard sell to be a Catholic. Purgatory is the safety net, when you die, you don't go to hell. You go there and get things sorted out and finally get to heaven if you've been a good Catholic. Take away that safety net, that's a hard sell because in the Catholic system you can never know you're saved, you can never know you're going to heaven. With some sins, you can't. If there's no Purgatory, there's no safety net to catch me and give me some opportunity to get into heaven. It's a second change, it's another chance after death. So they had to invent Purgatory. It's just too much without it.

If you are a Christian, the moment you leave this life you go to heaven. The Bible doesn't teach what the medieval theologians referred to as limbus patrum or limbo. There is no purgatory. Paul said he preferred "to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord" (**2 Cor. 5:8**).

Let's also consider what Jesus prayed in **John 17:24**

Is this consistent with purgatory? Why not? \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Let's look at some other verses

Some claim **1 Corinthians 3:10-15** describes purgatory, but let's look at it:

<sup>10</sup> According to the grace of God which is given unto me, as a wise masterbuilder, I have laid the foundation, and another buildeth thereon. But let every man take heed how he buildeth thereupon.

<sup>11</sup> For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ.

<sup>12</sup> Now if any man build upon this foundation gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, stubble;

<sup>13</sup> Every man's work shall be made manifest: for the day shall declare it, because it shall be revealed by fire; and the fire shall try every man's work of what sort it is.



<sup>14</sup> If any man's work abide which he hath built thereupon, he shall receive a reward.

<sup>15</sup> If any man's work shall be burned, he shall suffer loss: but he himself shall be saved; yet so as by fire.

What is tested by the fire in these verses? Is it the person or is it the works? \_\_\_\_\_.

What does that tell us about whether purgatory – where the person is punished by fire (usually)?

\_\_\_\_\_.

What is at issue in these verses?

\_\_\_\_\_.

Read **Psalm 16:10-11**. Did the psalmist leave any room for any type of purifying pain in purgatory? \_\_\_\_\_.

## Lesson 6 – Eternal Life in Heaven and Questions about Heaven?

As we conclude, we want to see what our quality of life will be in Heaven, and answer some questions about it. As we go through these, think about the “awesomeness” of these promises and how precious they are to you.

### Heaven is and will be a place:

- of unbroken \_\_\_\_\_ with God
  - **John 17:5-26 – but focus on verses 21-25.**
  - **Revelation 21:3** – note how crucial this principle of fellowship with God is in the Bible’s final comments on Heaven
- Where we, as redeemed people, can actually \_\_\_\_\_ God – do we really understand that privilege and honor?
  - **Revelation 22:3-4**
- of perpetual \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Revelation 21:3**
  - **Revelation 4:8, 10**
  - **Revelation 5:13-14**
- of everlasting \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Revelation 22:3**
- of abundant \_\_\_\_\_
  - **1 Timothy 4:8**
  - **Revelation 22:1-2**
- of \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Luke 15:10**
- of \_\_\_\_\_
  - **1 Thessalonians 4:13-18**

- of \_\_\_\_\_
  - **1 Corinthians 13:10**
  - **1 John 3:2**
  - **Revelation 21:27**
  
- of \_\_\_\_\_
  - **1 Corinthians 3:12-14**
  - **Revelation 22:12**
  - **Luke 19:17**
  
- of perfect \_\_\_\_\_
  - **1 Corinthians 13:9-12**
  
- of \_\_\_\_\_
  - **2 Corinthians 12:2-4**
  - **Matthew 17:1-2, 4-5**
  
- of perfect \_\_\_\_\_
  - **Luke 16:25**
  
- of perfect \_\_\_\_\_
  - **John 13:1** – Jesus loved His disciples *eis telos* - “to the end”

## **Frequent Questions About Heaven**

We cannot answer all the questions people may have. Why?  
**Deuteronomy 29:29**

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But, I want to attempt to address some of the most frequent questions which do have Scriptural answers:

## 1. Will everyone be blessed the same in Heaven?

The Scripture seems to say “no.” We all experience God, but our rewards will be different, and will be based upon our works.

**1 Corinthians 3:11-15**

**2 Corinthians 5:10**

## 2. Will we have bodies?

I hope we have answered that one above, but just in case, Philippians 3:21 teaches we will be like Him, and we have seen that His resurrection body was indeed a physical body.

## 3. Will we eat and drink in Heaven?

Yes.

**Matthew 26:29**

**Revelation 19:9**

## 4. Will we recognize loved ones in Heaven?

It seems so. Moses and Elijah were recognized when they appeared from Heaven on the Mount of Transfiguration – even by people who had never met them. **Matthew 17:3**[And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias talking with him.] Peter even knew them by name. **Matthew 17:4.** [Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias] Furthermore, personal identity is at least implied when Paul comforted the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians **4:13-18** and in Jesus’ response to the Sadducees questions about the resurrection. **Matthew 22:28-30.**

## 5. Will there be tears in Heaven?

### Revelation 21:4

The promise to wipe away tears first appears in **Isaiah 25:8**:

In **Revelation 7:17**, we read:

But, these Scriptures all speak of future events – things God will do in the future. It does make sense that this would be after all these worldly things have passed away, and after the final judgment.

Consider **Matthew 23:37** – Jesus \_\_\_\_\_ for people while He was on earth.

Does Jesus no longer grieve because he is in heaven? Consider **Acts 9:4-5** – Who does this say Saul was persecuting?  
\_\_\_\_\_.

Finally, John \_\_\_\_\_ in Heaven. **Revelation 5:1-5**.

Consider **1 Corinthians 3:15**.

## 6. Will we be Holy

We are told that we will see God in Heaven and get to worship Him. But, what are we also told in Hebrews 12:14:

\_\_\_\_\_.

Therefore, we are made Holy.

## CONCLUSION

So, do you want to go to Heaven?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

What must we do to guarantee our place in Heaven? **Romans 10:9**

\_\_\_\_\_.

If you have done that, is there any doubt where you will go when you die?

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes

\_\_\_\_\_ No

Can you now explain why Paul would write **Philippians 1:23-24**?

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_.

Why should this be the attitude of every believer?

\_\_\_\_\_.