

Sermon 5-03-09 **Heaven, Sermon #8**

Sermon #2, 3, 4, 5, 6 & 7 overview

What will heaven be like?

Who will go to heaven?

How do we get to heaven?

Death (2 Cor. 5:8-9)

The Rapture (1 Thess. 4:13-5:11; 1 Cor. 15:51-58)

What happens at death for the believer?

What's the Present Heaven (Intermediate State) like for the believer?

1. **Will we know each other?** Will our personality extend beyond the grave?
2. **Do those in the present heaven see what's happening on earth?**
3. **Do those in the present heaven pray for us?**
4. **If those in the present Heaven are aware of people and events on earth how can they be happy if they see all the suffering and evil on earth?**

What will we be like in Heaven?

Gloriously Perfected - Our whole person –body and soul–will be made completely new, flawless. We will finally be wholly and completely Christlike; *Ro 8:29 For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the likeness of his Son.* Heaven is the perfect place for people made perfect. Perfection is the goal of God's sanctifying work in us. He is making us fit to dwell in His presence forever. The utter perfection of heaven is the consummation of our salvation.

Our resurrected bodies are our earthy bodies, glorified. The bodies we receive in the resurrection will have the same qualities as the glorified resurrection body of Christ (1 Jn. 3:2).

^{1Jn 3:2} Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when he appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. ^{1Jn 3:3} Everyone who has this hope in him purifies himself, just as he is pure.

Christ's resurrection body was the same as before, not a whole new one. After he arose the tomb was empty.

John 20:27 – His Crucifixion wounds were visible.

Luke 24:29 – His could be touched and handled.

Luke 24:13-18 – His humanity/body was visible.

Luke 24:42-43 – He ate earthly food.

John 20:19 – He body also had supernatural powers. He passed through walls.

Mark 16:12 – He could appear in other forms.

Luke 24:36 – He could appear from nowhere.

Luke 24:51; Acts 1:9 – He can ascend directly into heaven in His resurrected body.

Our bodies will be like that of Jesus. The Lord *“shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body”* (Phil. 3:21). They will be real, physical, genuinely human bodies—the very same bodies we have dwelt with on this earth—yet wholly perfected and glorified.

Our resurrected body has continuity with our earthly body, but there is also change that allows us to live eternally in the presence of God (1Cor. 15:42-44). *^{1Co 15:42} So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; ^{1Co 15:43} it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; ^{1Co 15:44} it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.* The grave yards of today are nothing more than the seed pots of the resurrection. **15:42–44** In the case of the resurrection of the dead, God will take a perishable, dishonorable, weak (and sinful) body “a natural body” characterized by sin—and in the

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resurrection make it an imperishable, glorious, powerful body, fit to live eternally with God. There is continuity, but there is also change. We will have unimaginable abilities in heaven. Remember that the heavenly city is fifteen hundred miles high and we won't need any elevators to get to the top.

Conclusion: Scripture compares our glorified bodies to the shining of the moon and stars: "they that are wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3). Can you understand why we should not make the things of this world our highest treasure and why God wants each of His children to set their affections on the things of His Kingdom?

God will do what is needed while we live on this earth to mold and shape us into the likeness of His Son because it has infinite values and is infinitely better than the fleeting things of this earth.

What will we experience in heaven?

Heaven will be a place of unimaginable blessings! In heaven we will:

Know perfect pleasure (Ps. 16:11). *Ps 16:11 You have made known to me the path of life; you will fill me with joy in your presence, with eternal pleasures at your right hand.* Pleasures we have known while here on earth are trivial when compared to the pure delights in heaven. Since nothing is better or greater than God, the pure enjoyment of Him must be the very essence of our bliss.

Have perfect knowledge (1 Cor. 13:12). *1Co 13:12 Now we see but a poor reflection as in a mirror; then we shall see face to face. Now I know in part; then I shall know fully, even as I am fully known.* Our knowledge will be as complete as we could ever desire. Since we are known comprehensively/ at length, this must mean we will know comprehensively. We will have no unanswered questions, no confusion, no ignorance, because we will be walking by sight instead of faith.

Live in perfect comfort

Know perfect love (1 Cor. 13:13). *"And now these three remain: faith, hope and love. But the greatest of these is love."* Love is the greatest of these three virtues because it is the only one that's eternal. In heaven all our hopes will be realized and all that we have laid hold of by faith will be ours to enjoy forever. Faith is swallowed up by sight. But we will love perfectly for all eternity.

Have perfect joy (Mt. 25:23). *"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful slave. You were faithful with a few things, I will put you in charge of many things; enter into the joy of your master.'" Our joy in this life is always mixed with sorrow, discouragement, disappointment, or worry. Sin, grief, and sorrow inevitably dampen happiness and joy. One of the dominant characteristics of heaven is joy. Best of all it's an unending and always growing joy.*