

What Happens One Minute After You Die – “The Glory of Heaven” Part 3

The last couple of weeks have been revealing what happens one minute after you die.

- We have looked at the perspective from both the Christian’s & the unbeliever’s future.
- We have seen what Jesus’ & Pauls’ words describe as the place called hell, where those who choose to reject the goodness, and mercy of Christ will spend eternity.
- We have seen the future for those who know Christ as Savior and Lord.

Today, we will reveal what will happen to those who have chosen to receive God’s mercy and goodness through Jesus Christ and have their eternal destiny located in Heaven.

George Barna’s stats reveal of what Americans think about heaven:

- **Most** Americans believe in life after death and the existence of the soul, yet not everyone is clear about their own ultimate destination. “They hope they will go to heaven!”
- 1 in 4 adults 24% admit they have no idea what will happen after they die. This group is comprised of singles, men, atheists and agnostics, residents of the Western Hemisphere & 18-19 year-olds of the Mosaic generation.
- Of those expecting to go to Heaven, there are differences in how they anticipate such an end will be attained: 43% say they are heaven bound because they believe they have confessed their sins and accepted Jesus Christ as Savior.
 - 15% felt they would go to heaven because they have attempted to keep the Ten Commandments,
 - 15% believe because they are a good person they will go to heaven.
 - Another 6% believe they will go to heaven because God loves all people and will not let them perish.

New perceptions about the hereafter:

- 1 in 5 adults – 18% contend that people are reincarnated after death.
- 1/3 – 34% of Americans believe it is possible to communicate with others after their death.
- This idea is gaining popularity among the younger generations:
 - 48% or half of the Busters [those born between approximately 1965 to 1980], embrace the concept of communication with the dead.
 - 35% of Boomers [born between 1946 and 1964], and
 - 15% of Elders [ages 58 +] believe in communication with the dead.
- American’s willingness to embrace beliefs that are logically contradictory religious viewpoints are revealing that **among born again Christians** – who believe they will

experience heaven based on their confessing of their sins to God and depending on Christ to spare them from eternal punishment –

- **10%** believe that people are reincarnated after death.
- **29%** claim it is possible to communicate with the dead.
- **50%** contend that a person can earn their salvation based on good works.

Thus revealing **confusion** and **synchronism** of beliefs.

- The stats reveal that many **born again Christians** believe that people have multiple options for gaining entry to Heaven:
They say: “Personally, I am trusting Jesus Christ as my means of gaining God’s favor and place in heaven – **but** someone else could get to heaven based upon living an exemplary life”.

Millions of Americans have redefined grace to mean that God is so eager to save people from Hell that He will and does change His nature and universal principles for their individual benefit.

“IT IS ASTOUNDING HOW MANY PEOPLE DEVELOP THEIR FAITH ACCORDING TO THEIR FEELINGS OR CULTURAL ASSUMPTIONS RATHER THAN BIBLICAL TEACHINGS.”

Remember our key thought through this series:

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT ETERNITY
DETERMINES HOW YOU LIVE TODAY**

**WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT FOREVER
IMPACTS HOW YOU LIVE IN THE NOW**

It will be impossible for me to be able to adequately describe the wonder, goodness, glory and bliss of heaven today.

Even Paul admitted this: 1 Corinthians 2:9 “No eye has seen, nor ear has heard, and no mind has imagined what God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Jesus’ words from John 14:1-6

“Don’t let your hearts be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father’s house are many mansions [dwellings]; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare **a place** for you. And if I go and prepare **a place** for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know. Thomas said to Him, Lord we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way? Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth and the life, No one comes to the Father except through Me.”

Revelation 21:1-5, 7

“I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look, Gods dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said: I am making everything new! He who overcomes, those who are victorious, will inherit all this, and I will be their God and they will be My children.”

1st Misconception About Heaven:

1. **Heaven will be Boring**

- So many people believe heaven will be boring because the devil is a liar. You might as well live for today – this life is all that matters!
- Some conceive of heaven as waiting in a long line to get in, St. Peter is there checking your name off and issuing you a white robe and a harp. You will wear that robe and play that harp the whole time – **eternally**. But you’re told to take comfort because you’ll be reunited with your loved ones – and you are thinking: “I really don’t want to be with those people again and not **forever!**”

So many people think heaven is boring because they think *God is boring!*

- God is a killjoy, He’s out to rob us of everything fun.
- Heaven will be the opposite of boredom.
- **Heaven is the absence of everything evil and the presence of everything good.**
- Everything we now enjoy on earth is the result of a gift from God in heaven- You enjoy what you eat with the taste buds God gave you, You enjoy the beauty of this world with the eyes that God gave you, When you feel joy, laughter, love; these are emotions God gave to you as a good gift from the Father who loves us.

When you go to heaven, you will enjoy everything you enjoy on earth BUT – there will be:

- NO SIN, NO MORE PAIN, NO MORE SORROW, NO MORE DEATH.
- It is the absence of everything evil and the presence of everything good.

What does Scripture say Heaven will be like?

1. 1 Corinthians 13:12-13 - We will KNOW one another, Love, and BE Loved.

“For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then face to face. Now I know in part, but then I shall know just as I also am known. And now abides, faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love.”

- We will be able to converse with all of the Bible people we’ve heard about and visit and interview them.
- Ladies who have gone through childbirth; you can go straight up to Eve and say: “Woman, what were you thinking? Was it worth it?”
- For those who have lost a loved one; a spouse, a child, a relative, a friend – you will be re-united **forever**.
- There will be no heartache, pain, rejection; in heaven there will be perfect love.

2. Heaven will be a place of un-imaginable beauty.

Revelation 21:15-21

“The city was shining with the glory of God. It was shining bright like a very expensive jewel, like a jasper. It was clear as crystal. The city had a large, high wall with twelve gates. There were twelve angels at the gates. On each gate was written the name of one of the twelve tribes of Israel. There were three gates on the east, three gates on the north, three gates on the south, and three gates on the west. The walls of the city were built on twelve foundation stones. On the stones were written the names of the twelve Apostles of the Lamb. The angel who talked with me had a measuring rod made of gold. The angel had this rod to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. The city was built in a square. Its length was equal to its width. The angel measured the city with the rod. The city was 12,000 stadia long, 12,000 stadia wide, and 12,000 stadia high. The angel also measured the wall. It was 144 cubits high. (The angel was using the same measurement that people use.) The wall was made of jasper. The city was made of pure gold, as pure as glass. The foundation stones of the city walls had every kind of expensive jewels in them. The first foundation stone was jasper, the second was sapphire, the third was chalcedony, the fourth was emerald, the fifth was onyx, the sixth was carnelian, the seventh was yellow quartz, the eighth was beryl, the ninth was topaz, the tenth was chrysoprase, the eleventh was jacinth, and the twelfth was amethyst. The twelve gates were twelve pearls. Each gate was made from one pearl. The street of the city was made of pure gold, as clear as glass.”

If no eye has seen, no mind can comprehend what God has prepared for those who love Him, maybe there are new colors, new wonders, new sensations, a new beauty of the recreated world as God establishes a new created order.

- Just think about this world now, it’s not boring; so how much more will God’s eternal and New Order be?

- Imagine being able to go through this world now and observe the beautiful places, heaven will be a beautiful experience for all eternity without the corruption of sin.
- One big giant petting zoo, the Lion will lay down with the lamb – Isaiah 11:6; 6:25
No sin.

3. In heaven, you will see Jesus face to face

1 John 3:2-3

“We are now children of God. We have not yet been shown what we will be in the future. But we know that when Christ comes again, we will be like Him. We will see Him just as He is. He is pure, and everyone who has this hope in Him keeps themselves pure like Christ.”

- We cannot be in the presence of God and live.
- Moses was only allowed to see a glimpse of God’s glory.
- One day you will look Jesus in the face, eye to eye and realize you never truly lived until you see the glory of the Son of God.

4. In heaven, you will have new and perfect bodies

1 Corinthians 15:35-54

“But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body will they come? Every time you plant seed you sow something that does not come to life [germinating, springing up and growing] unless it first dies. The seed you sow is not the body (the plant) which it is going to become, but it is a bare seed, perhaps of wheat or some other grain. But God gives it a body just as He planned, and to each kind of seed a body of its own [is given]. All flesh is not the same. There is one kind for humans, another for animals, another for birds, and another for fish...

So it is with the resurrection of the dead. The [human] body that is sown is perishable and mortal, it is raised imperishable and immortal. It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in strength; it is sown a natural body [mortal, suited to earth], it is raised a spiritual body [immortal, suited to eternity]. As surely as there is a physical body, there is also a spiritual body... Now I say this, that flesh and blood cannot inherit nor be part of the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable (mortal) inherit the imperishable (immortal). Listen very carefully, I tell you a mystery [a secret truth decreed by God and previously hidden, but now revealed]; we will not all sleep [in death], but we will all be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed], in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at [the sound of] the last trumpet call. For a trumpet will sound, and the dead [who believed in Christ] will be raised imperishable, and we will be [completely] changed [wondrously transformed]. For this perishable [part of us] must put on the imperishable [nature], and this mortal [part of us that is capable of dying] must put on immortality [which is freedom from death]. And when this perishable puts on the imperishable, and this mortal puts on immortality, then the

Scripture will be fulfilled that says, “DEATH IS SWALLOWED UP in victory (vanquished forever).”

- Any and all loved ones or acquaintances who have gone before us will be in a perfect state of existence: No more sickness, or weakness of the flesh, no more receding hairlines, wrinkles, sore joints, whatever you battled on earth in your body will be perfect in every way in heaven.

5. **Heaven is the absence of everything bad, painful and evil. It’s the presence of everything good, holy, and glorious**

Isaiah 65:17-25

“Behold, I am creating new heavens and a new earth; and the former things [of life] will not be remembered or come to mind. “However, be glad and rejoice forever over what I create; Behold, I am creating Jerusalem to be a source of rejoicing and her people a joy. “I will also rejoice in Jerusalem and be glad in my people; and there will no longer be heard in her the voice of weeping and the sound of crying. “No longer shall there be in it an infant who lives only a few days, Or an old man who does not finish his days; For the youth who dies at the age of a hundred, And the one who does not reach the age of a hundred will be thought of as accursed...”

The wolf and the lamb will graze together, and the lion will eat straw like the ox [there will no longer be predator and prey]; and dust will be the serpent’s food. They will do no evil or harm in all My holy mountain (Zion),” says the LORD.”

Revelation 21:21-27

“And the twelve gates were twelve pearls; each separate gate was of one single pearl. And the street (broad way) of the city was pure gold, like transparent crystal. I saw no temple in it, for the Lord God Almighty [the Omnipotent, the Ruler of all] and the Lamb are its temple. And the city has no need of the sun nor of the moon to give light to it, for the glory (splendor, radiance) of **God** has illumined it, and the **Lamb** is its lamp and light. The nations [the redeemed people from the earth] will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring into it their glory. By day (for there will be no night there) its gates will never be closed [in fear of evil]; and they will bring the glory (splendor, majesty) and the honor of the nations into it; and **nothing that defiles or profanes or is unwashed will ever enter it, nor anyone who practices abominations [detestable, morally repugnant things] and lying, but only those [will be admitted] whose names have been written in the Lamb’s Book of Life.**”

- Heaven will be the place of working with Jesus in the glory and passion of what we love to do, what HE created us with the capabilities to attain – we will enjoy the work for ETERNITY.
- There will be no more curse on work but blessing as it was originally intended to be.
- Whatever you’re passionate about, you will get to enjoy it for ETERNITY.

What will we not find in heaven?

- No more death, pain, separation, sorrow, sickness, fear, stress, depression, sleepless nights, anxiety, no more abuse, no more heartache, no more divorce and its pain, no more racism, no more elections/politics, no more injustices, no more violence – Only the presence of good and no more evil.

2nd Misconception about Heaven:

2. This world is your home: this world is all that matters.

Paul said to a group of believers about un-believers:

Philippians 3:19-20 “Their mind is set on earthly things. **But our citizenship is in heaven**. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ.”

- What I have, what I own, what I wear, what my bank account holds, what I look like, where I go, where I live, peoples opinion of me – is what matters to those focusing on earthly things.

Rope Illustration:

- This rope represents a time line that stretches as far back in history as you can imagine, [God always has been, He is without beginning] [**change directions**]

This direction represents time going as far in the future as you can imagine – [your life is over and this is the future forever and forever and ever.

- Where are you? This **red** portion marks the history of humankind. **Adam** – you need help, creates Eve. – fast forward to **Christ’s coming into the world**.

The Renaissance – [fast forward] - **Guttenberg** invents the printing press and the Bible is made available to many more persons – [fast forward] – **The Reformation** – **The Industrial Revolution** – [fast forward to our era] – **WW1, The Great Depression, WW2, 57 Chevy, creation of the INTERNET**[fast forward to right here] – that’s you and me here today!

The history of mankind: **Eternity Past** and **Eternity Present** and then there’s this very small time era of your life!

Scripture says: James 4:14 “Yet you do not know [the least thing] about what may happen in your life tomorrow. [What is secure in your life?] You are merely a vapor [like a puff of smoke or a wisp of steam from a cooking pot] that is visible for a little while and then vanishes [into thin air].”

You are here on this earth for a moment:

- Here is what matters – the Eternity Future, but so many are living for this [small part of red rope at end – our life]
- We get so upset about what is happening in this red – our life now.
 - I’m running late, that person said that about me, something broke, they made fun of me at school.

Philippians contains five little words that we need to know today:

Philippians 1:18 “**What then does it matter?**”

- There were some who were preaching Christ out of pretense, envy, selfish ambition and to cause trouble for Paul and make him look bad and to be persecuted even worse.
- But he determined – “What then does it matter?” Christ is preached so I will rejoice.

So we get all uptight and upset when this life isn’t going right for us **NOW** – Ask ourselves – “In the light of **ETERNITY**, what will it matter?”

If it doesn’t matter in **ETERNITY**, we should not be letting it upset us **NOW!**

We need to live **HERE/NOW** [in red] in a way that makes a difference in **ETERNITY**.

WHAT DOES MATTER IS HOW I LIVE HERE - THAT WILL AFFECT ETERNITY?

- What matters is how I love
- What matters is what I give
- What matters is who I serve
- What matters is what I say that gives life to others

If it doesn’t matter in **ETERNITY**, then don’t let it bother me **HERE**.

But if it does matter in **ETERNITY**, then by all means, we should be living it **HERE**.

2 Corinthians 4:18

“For the things that we see now will soon be gone, but the things we cannot see will last forever.” NLT

AMP: “So we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are unseen; for the things which are visible are **temporal** [just brief and fleeting], but the things which are invisible are **everlasting and imperishable**.”

THIS WORLD IS NOT YOUR HOME: YOUR LIFE IS ONLY A VAPOR

WHAT YOU BELIEVE ABOUT **ETERNITY**
DETERMINES HOW YOU LIVE **TODAY!**

3rd Misconception:

3. Most people are going to heaven anyway.

- If this is so, it doesn't matter how I live or what I do, it doesn't matter what I believe; everyone is going to heaven. UNIVERSALISM.
- Good people are going to heaven, I'm a good person, I'll be ok.
- Heaven is not the default destination for every human being:

Jesus said: Matthew 7:13-14 “Enter in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and **many** there are which go in that gate. Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and there are **few** who find it.”

The truth is: **Good people** don't go to heaven when they die.

Who goes to heaven? FORGIVEN PEOPLE GO TO HEAVEN WHEN
THEY DIE!

Forgiven by the grace of Jesus.

Romans 3:23-25 How many people have sinned?

“For **everyone has sinned; we all fall short of the glory of God's glorious standard. Yet God, in His grace**, freely makes us right in His sight. He did that **through Christ Jesus** when He freed us from the penalty of our sins. For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed His life, shedding His blood...”

1. **Relieve you of your fears:** If you are in Christ, you don't have to fear death or life.
2. **Increase your sense of urgency:** Realize you only have this life to do something that matters for ETERNITY.