



WHAT HAPPENS TO BELIEVERS IN THE NEXT LIFE?

Matthew 22:23-33

- ***What are some of the biggest questions that you have for the Lord?***
- **Most people today are almost exclusively focused on what they want to experience in this life - they are focused on looking good, feeling good, having the “goods,” or finding someone that is “good.”**
- ***“Do not love this world nor the things it offers you, for when you love the world, you do not have the love of the Father in you. . . . This world is fading away, along with everything that people crave. But anyone who does what pleases God will live forever.”***
(1 John 2:15-17)
- **Some people, like the Sadducees, are focused so much on this life that they don’t have any real belief about or concern for the “next life.”**
- **When people don’t have any focus on the “next life” it has a negative impact on how they live and what they experience in this life.**
- ***“Jesus replied, ‘Your mistake is that you don’t know the Scriptures, and you don’t know the power of God.’*** (Matthew 22:29)
- **People who leave this life without a relationship with Jesus end up in Hell, forever separated from the goodness of God; but real Christians experience far greater things in the next life than they ever experienced in their life on earth.**
- ***What does the Bible say about what happens to genuine Christians when they leave this life and enter the “next life”?***

The Bible Teaches Us That When Christians Leave This Life:

WE WILL EXPERIENCE A TRANSFORMATION

- ***“We know that as long as we live in these bodies we are not at home with the Lord. . . . We would rather be away from these earthly bodies, for then we will be at home with the Lord.”*** (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)
- **When Christians pass away our soul and spirit go to be with the Lord.**
- ***“Since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with Him the believers who have died. . . . We who***

are still living when the Lord returns will not meet Him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord Himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever.” (1 Thessalonians 4:14-17)

- **Eventually up in Heaven Christians will have transformed bodies**
- *“For when the trumpet sounds, those who have died will be raised to live forever. And we who are living will also be transformed. For our dying bodies must be transformed into bodies that will never die; our mortal bodies must be transformed into immortal bodies.” (1 Corinthians 15:52-53)*
- **What comes to my mind when I think of living in Heaven with a transformed body?**

The Bible Teaches Us That When Christians Leave This Life:

WE WILL GO THROUGH AN EXAMINATION

- *“We must all stand before Christ to be judged. We will each receive whatever we deserve for the good or evil we have done in our bodies.” (2 Corinthians 5:10)*
- **The “judgment” for non-Christians is called *The Great White Throne Judgment* (Revelation 20:11-15), while the “judgment” for Christians is called the *Judgment Seat Of Christ*, and Jesus will be the “Judge” at this event (John 5:22).**
- **At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be examined about the *Quality of our Christian life*.**
 - *“There is going to come a time of testing at the judgment day to see what kind of work each builder has done. Everyone’s work will be put through the fire to see whether or not it keeps its value. If the work survives the fire, that builder will receive a reward. But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. The builders themselves will be saved, but like someone escaping through a wall of flames.” (1 Corinthians 3:13-15)*
- **At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be examined about the *Words we have spoken*.**
 - Jesus - *“I tell you this, that you must give an account on judgment day of every idle word you speak. The words you say now reflect your fate then; either you will be justified by them or you will be condemned.” (Matthew 12:36-37)*
- **At the Judgment Seat of Christ we will be examined about the *Faithfulness we have demonstrated*.**
 - Jesus - *“To those who use well what they are given, even more will be given, and they will have an abundance. But from those who are unfaithful, even what little they have will be taken away.” (Matthew 25:29)*
- *“When the Lord comes, He will bring our deepest secrets to light and will reveal our private motives. And then God will give to everyone whatever praise is due.” (1 Corinthians 4:5)*
- **At the Judgment Seat of Christ *Rewards will be received*.**
 - Paul - *“I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness that the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of His return. And the prize is*

not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to His glorious return.” (2 Timothy 4:7-8)

- **At the Judgment Seat of Christ Responsibilities will be given.**
 - The Lord - *“Well done, My good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let’s celebrate together!” (Matthew 25:21)*
 - **The responsibilities we will be given will be carried out during the Millennium and throughout Eternity (Revelation 20-22).**
- **What are my thoughts as I contemplate being judged by Jesus at the Judgment Seat Of Christ?**

The Bible Teaches Us That When Christians Leave This Life:

WE WILL HAVE A GREAT TIME OF CELEBRATION

- *“For the time has come for the wedding feast of the Lamb, and His bride has prepared herself. She is permitted to wear the finest white linen. (Fine linen represents the good deeds done by the people of God.) And the angel said, ‘Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb.’ And he added, ‘These are true words that come from God.’” (Revelation 19:7-9)*
- **When Jesus becomes our Savior we become a part of the “Bride of Christ.”**
- **In Bible days, the center of attraction at a wedding was the Groom, not the Bride.**
- **The “Bride of Christ” prepares herself for the “Groom” through the way we live on Earth and through the Judgment Seat of Christ.**
- *“God did this to present her to Himself as a glorious church without a spot or wrinkle or any other blemish. Instead, she will be holy and without fault.” (Ephesians 5:27)*
- **In the Rapture Jesus will “catch us up”; at the Judgment Seat He will “clean us up”; and at the Wedding Feast He will “cheer us up”!**
- **Following the Wedding Feast with Jesus we will have a 1000-year honeymoon during His millennial rule.**
- *“Then I saw thrones, and the people sitting on them had been given the authority to judge...They reigned with Christ for a thousand years. This is the first resurrection...Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. For them the second death holds no power, but they will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with Him a thousand years.” (Revelation 20:4-6)*
- **At the end of it all, Christians will spend eternity worshiping the Lord, fellowshipping with Him and other Christians, and serving the Lord in Heaven.**
- *“I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a beautiful bride prepared for her husband. I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, ‘Look, the home of God is now among His people! He will live with them, and they will be His people. God Himself will be with them. He will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death or sorrow or crying or pain. For the old world and its evils are gone forever.’ And the One sitting on the throne said, ‘Look, I am making all things new!’ . . . All who are victorious will inherit all these blessings, and I will be their God, and they will be My children.” (Revelation 21:1-7)*

- **What happens to non-Christians who pass from this life to the next life?**
- *“Anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire.”* (Revelation 20:15)
- The Lord - *“But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars - their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.”* (Revelation 21:8)
- **Who do I need to be a witness to this holiday season - so they can experience the transforming power of Jesus in this life and Heaven in the next life?**
- Jesus to the Sadducees - *“Long after Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob had died, God said, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob.’ So He is the God of the living, not the dead.”* (Matthew 22:31-32)