

What will it be like? – 10/04/2016

“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. ² In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. ³ 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. (John 14:1-3)

Beloved in the Lord,

From time to time someone will ask the question “what will it be like to die?” “What will happen to me when I die?” The answer is dependent upon whether the person believes in Jesus Christ or not. For the unbeliever, there is no comfort or hope, because Jesus taught that the unbeliever will be lost in total darkness forever.

For the believer it is a different story. The Bible gives us some insight into what it will be like. The main point is that if we die in faith, if we die in Jesus Christ, then we know that at the moment we die, we will be present with Him. Paul puts it this way: **“absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord.” (2.Cor.5:8)**. When we die, our soul and spirit, (which are eternal) fly off from this body into the immediate presence of our Lord Jesus Christ. We go home to be with The Lord.

The body remains here, and we respectfully dispose of it by means of burial or cremation. The body is no longer needed. Paul likens our physical body to a tent. He writes:

“For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. ² For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, ³ inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked. ⁴ For indeed while we are in this tent, we groan, being burdened, because we do not want to be unclothed but to be clothed, so that what is mortal will be swallowed up by life. ⁵ Now He who prepared us for this very purpose is God, who gave to us the Spirit as a pledge.

⁶ Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷ for we walk by faith, not by sight— ⁸ we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. “ (2 Cor.5:1-8)

Please notice that Paul writes being of good courage and knowing. If we have placed our trust in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Saviour, then we know what awaits us after this life. We have a new life with our Lord forever in His presence. We will no longer have to live by faith, because we will live by sight. We will see Him as He is.

When we leave this earthly tent behind, this temporal body, then we go to be with Jesus and we await the day when we will be resurrected in a new body. What will that body be like? Well, we get

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some insight into that by looking at Jesus resurrected body. After Easter, after His resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples in a body that was similar but different. He was no longer restricted by time or space. Jesus came and went, He appeared and disappeared. He came into a locked room. Yet He had a body that could be felt, and He even ate some food in front of His disciples.

What will it be like? We will find out when we get there, but this much we can be sure of – it will be more than wonderful. We will have a body that will never age, that will not suffer from arthritis and other weaknesses, it will never tire, never become sick. We will no longer experience pain of any kind.

In the book of Revelation John describes what he saw:

“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away, and there is no longer any sea. ² And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband. ³ And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “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, ⁴ and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” (Rev.21:1-4)

My friends, that is what it will be like! God Himself will dwell amongst us. We will have a new resurrected eternal body. We will live in a place where there will be no more tears. No more death. Praise God. There will be no sorrow, no sighing, no pain. I know that that is so hard to imagine, but that is what awaits the child of God. Hallelujah. That new life has no end. It is eternal.

Isaiah wrote and Paul quoted him:

“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.” ¹⁰ For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. (1.Cor.2:9-10)

I love these words. They strengthen me and fill me with joy. We cannot even begin to imagine what it will be like. It will be far more wonderful and beautiful than anything we can imagine or experience here in this life.

For those whom God loves, and who love Him in return, there is a bright, indescribable future. The best part is that we will be together with our Lord Jesus Christ forever. We heard Him teach that in our text today. He said that He is going to prepare a place for us in the Father’s house and when it is ready, He will come and take us there so that we can be with Him forever.

Paul describes that time in his letter to the Thessalonians. The members of that congregation were sad and confused, because many had died and they were not sure about what would happen to them when Jesus returned. In order to comfort them and teach them the truth Paul wrote:

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brethren, about those who are asleep, so that you will not grieve as do the rest who have no hope. ¹⁴ For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again,

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even so God will bring with Him those who have fallen asleep in Jesus. ¹⁵ For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord Himself will descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet of God, and the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore comfort one another with these words.” (1.Thes.4:13-18)

Note what Paul writes in verse 17: **“so we shall always be with The Lord.”**

Then Paul tells us to comfort one another with these words. These words are given to comfort us, to fill us with hope, to give us peace and joy, and knowledge in regards to life eternal.

We need not mourn over those who have died in Christ. They have gone home. They are waiting for us. The day is coming when we will join them and we will all be together with the Lord, and there all tears will be wiped away.

That is our faith. That is our sure hope, It will be like that because God has said so.

As we ponder upon these words, do they make you happy? Is that your sure hope? Can you confess along with Paul: “I know that when my earthly tent is destroyed,. I have a building from God, eternal in the Heavens.?”

If you can, praise God. Strengthen yourself in your faith. Live patiently, but expectantly, knowing that you do not believe in vain.

But maybe you have some doubts and fears. You are not really sure. You say “I hope so, but am not really sure.” Lovingly Jesus says to you: “ Come to Me. Open your heart and let Me in. “

He says: ***“Behold, I stand at the door and knock; if anyone hears My voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and will dine with him, and he with Me. ²¹ He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne.” (Rev.3:20-21)***

When you open the door of your heart to Jesus, and He abides in your heart, then your doubts melt away and you know what it will be like.

He wants you to know, because for you He died and rose again so that you may live with Him forever in glory. To Him be all honour, glory and praise. Hallelujah.

Amen

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.***