

The Glorious Future of Every Christian

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Col 3:1-2 (Amp) Since you have been raised with Christ to a new life, thus sharing His resurrection from the dead, aim at and seek the rich, eternal treasures that are above, where Christ is seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds and keep them set on what is above, the higher things, not on the things that are on the earth.

"It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this world." C.S. Lewis

Your future! At the time of physical death, you will instantaneously find yourself in the present Heaven with Jesus (and all believers who preceded you in death; family, friends...).

2 Cor 5:8-9 We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.

Phil 1:21-25 For to me, to live is Christ, and to die is gain. I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, which is far better.

Heb 12:22-23 (NLT) You have come to Mount Zion, to the city of the living God, the Heavenly Jerusalem... You have come to the assembly of God's firstborn children... You have come to God himself!

In Heaven, you will have fully functional mind, will, emotion, cognition, vision, hearing, speaking, preference, memory... You'll have a viewable, recognizable, clothable "soul or soulish" body. When looking into Heaven, the Apostle John saw under the altar "the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held and they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?" Then a white robe was given to each of them..." These saints in Heaven were clothed, remembered their earthly lives, made decisions, had preferences, talked to the Lord, and heard His response. In Heaven, you'll be the most complete you, you've ever been! (Read Luke 16:19-31, John 14:2-3, Rev 6:9-11).

After arriving in Heaven, you will reside in the mansion Jesus prepared especially for you. Life will be heavenly!

John 14:2-3 In My Father's house are many mansions; 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.

D. L. Moody said, "Soon you will read in the newspaper that I am dead. Don't believe it for a moment. I will be more alive than ever before."

As you're going about life in the present Heaven, using your God-given talents and capabilities to accomplish His will, to glorify Him; the catching away (rapture) of the church will happen. This will be the moment of your bodily resurrection.

1 Cor 15:23 (NLT) Christ was raised first; then when Christ comes back, all his people will be raised.

Phil 3:20-21 Our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body... (See Luke 24:39-43)

1 Thes 4:15-18 (NLT) I (*Paul*) can tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not rise to meet him ahead of those who are in their graves. For the Lord himself will come down from Heaven with a commanding shout, with the call of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, all the Christians who have died will rise from their graves (*be bodily resurrected*). 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 and remain with him forever. **A glorious truth: Where Jesus is, you will be forever!**

1 Cor 15:51-54 Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed — in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So, when this corruptible has put on incorruption, and this mortal has put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written: "Death is swallowed up in victory."

Hereafter, you, and every other believer, will be in Heaven with Jesus. You will have been clothed with your eternal, immortal, incorruptible, resurrection body. The one in which you will dwell forever and ever. Your body will be the same "kind" as Jesus possessed after His resurrection. Remember, "Jesus Christ will transform your lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body" (Phil 3:21).

Sometime after your arrival in Heaven, you will stand before the Judgment Seat of Christ. At this judgment, you will gain or lose reward based upon "what you did with your Christian life while on earth."

Rom 14:10 We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ.

2 Cor 5:10 (NLT) 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.

1 Cor 3:13-15 (NLT) 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.

You might be thinking, "This won't be such a glorious time." But, whatever the outcome, it will be glorious because you continue to be with Jesus eternally, experiencing His love, joy, peace... And, you may become the most fruitful citizen of Heaven. Your life is still in its early stage!

Regarding how you live presently, it is wise to remember that the Lord gives eternal reward for temporal obedience. Be about His will, plan, and purpose for your life now and eternal reward will abound to your account.

Here's a "fun" reward passage: "Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven" (Matt 5:11-12). How about this one? "Be faithful until death, and Jesus will give you the crown of life" (Rev 2:10).

After experiencing the Judgment Seat of Christ, you'll dress up in your fine linen, clean and bright, and be off to the Marriage (Wedding) Feast of the Lamb. Your marriage to Jesus will have been completed and it's time to celebrate! You'll eat, drink, and party with Jesus! You'll rejoice and be glad. You'll have the best wine you've ever tasted or, you can have the water of life (John 2:10, Rev 19:7, 21:6).

Rev 19:6-9 (NLT) Then I heard again what sounded like the shout of a huge crowd, or the roar of mighty ocean waves, or the crash of loud thunder: "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us be glad and rejoice and honor him. 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.) Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding feast of the Lamb."

Sometime after the Marriage Supper of the Lamb, as a soldier in the Lord's army, you will accompany Jesus as He returns to planet earth (Jerusalem) to put down the Antichrist and his followers. This is His second advent.

Rev 19:11-21 (NLT) Then I saw heaven opened, and a white horse was standing there. And the one sitting on the horse was named Faithful and True. For He judges fairly and then goes to war. His eyes were bright like flames of fire, and on his head were many crowns. A name was written on him, and only he knew what it meant. He was clothed with a robe dipped in blood, and his title was the

Word of God. The armies of heaven, dressed in pure white linen, followed him on white horses. From his mouth came a sharp sword, and with it he struck down the nations. He ruled them with an iron rod, and he trod the winepress of the fierce wrath of almighty God. On his robe and thigh was written this title: King of kings and Lord of lords. (2 Tim 2:4: You are a soldier in His army.)

Jesus goes on to defeat the Antichrist, the False Prophet, and their entire army, who have gathered to destroy Israel (the Battle of Armageddon). The Antichrist and False Prophet are cast into the Lake of Fire. Satan is bound for a thousand years and Jesus begins to rule the earth, from the Throne of David in Jerusalem. This is the beginning of the Millennium.

The words of Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT) will have come to pass! "The government will rest on his shoulders. These will be his royal titles: Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. His ever expanding, peaceful government will never end. He will rule forever with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David."

During that one thousand years, you will rule and reign with Christ on planet earth. You will participate in the first righteous government on earth since the fall of man. His Kingdom (rule) has come. His will is being done.

2 Tim 2:12 If we endure, we shall also reign with Him.

Rev 5:10 You were slain and have redeemed us to God by Your blood...and have made us kings and priests to our God; and we shall reign on the earth."

Rev 20:6 Blessed and holy are those who share in the first resurrection. They will be priests of God and of Christ and will reign with him a thousand years.

Rev 22:3-5 His servants shall serve Him... And they shall reign forever and ever.

The Millennium will be a glorious time on planet earth. Satan has been bound, the curse on the earth is partially lifted, and righteousness predominates.

Isaiah give us a glimpse of the millennium: "The wilderness will rejoice in those days. The desert will blossom with flowers. Yes, there will be an abundance of flowers and singing and joy! The deserts will become as green as the mountains of Lebanon, as lovely as Mount Carmel's pastures and the plain of Sharon. There the LORD will display his glory, the splendor of our God. With this news, strengthen those who have tired hands, and encourage those who have weak knees. Say to those who are afraid, "Be strong, and do not fear, for your God is coming to destroy your enemies. He is coming to save you." And when he comes, he will open the eyes of the blind and unstop the ears of the deaf. The lame will leap like a deer, and those who cannot speak will shout and sing! Springs will gush forth in the wilderness and streams will water the desert"

"No longer will babies die when only a few days old. No longer will adults die before they have lived a full life. No longer will people be considered old at one hundred" (Isaiah 35:1-7, 65:20 NLT).

Your participation in the millennial rule of Christ will be a gloriously gratifying and fulling experience. Remember, as God's eternal plan unfolds, things get better and better!

Apparently, there is no end to human pride and rebellion. Amidst the idyllic conditions of the millennium, there are multitudes of folks who're willing to embrace Satan. When he is released from the pit, he gathers them and, once again, leads a rebellion against God's people and God's city (Jerusalem). Satan doesn't seem to learn from experience!

Rev 20:7-10 (NLT) **When the thousand years end**, Satan will be let out of his prison. He will go out to deceive the nations from every corner of the earth, which are called Gog and Magog. He will gather them together for battle — a mighty host, as numberless as sand along the shore. And I saw them as they went up on the broad plain of the earth and surrounded God's people and the beloved city. But fire from heaven came down on the attacking armies and consumed them. Then the Devil, who betrayed them, was thrown into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur, joining the beast and the false prophet. There they will be tormented day and night forever and ever.

Satan's end! God consumes by fire this final Satan led rebellion and Satan is cast into the lake of fire. Praise God forevermore.

Where are you during this time of rebellion and its defeat? You're always with Jesus, ruling and reigning with Him.

It's now time for the Great White Throne Judgment. God's final judgment.

Rev 20:12-15 Every person, who has not stood before God/Christ to be judged, will be resurrected and judged here. All the wicked dead will be resurrected and judged at the Great White Throne. Also, believers who have not previously experienced resurrection and judgement will be judged. "And, anyone whose name was not found recorded in the Book of Life was thrown into the lake of fire"

At the completion of this judgment, every person who has lived since the time of Adam (he included) will have been resurrected and judged.

Now comes the time for the restoration of the heavens and the earth as has been prophesied for thousands of years.

Isaiah 65:17 "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered or come to mind."

2 Peter 3:10-13 (Amp) The day of the Lord will come like a thief, and then the heavens will vanish (pass away) with a thunderous crash, and the material elements of the universe will be dissolved with fire, and the earth and the works that are upon it will be burned up. The flaming heavens will be dissolved, and the material elements of the universe will flare and melt with fire.

But we look for new heavens and a new earth according to His promise, in which righteousness (uprightness and freedom from sin) is to abide.

What happens next? Our expectation comes to pass!

Rev 21:1-8 I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away. Also there was no more sea. Then I, John, saw the holy city, New Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God. And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Then He who sat on the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." And He said to me, "Write, for these words are true and faithful."

And He said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End. I will give of the fountain of the water of life freely to him who thirsts. He who overcomes shall inherit all things, and I will be his God and he shall be My son."

As a member of the bride of Christ, as a resident of the new Jerusalem, you will continue worshiping, serving, and reigning with God eternally.

Rev 22:1-5 And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and **His servants shall serve Him. And they shall reign forever and ever.**

It's important to notice that, in the end, God's family is living on a resurrected earth, in their resurrection bodies, reigning with their resurrected Lord. All things have been made new. As it was in the beginning, the people of God are in the place of God, with total access to God, doing the will of God.

In the beginning, God created man in his own image; God patterned them after himself; male and female he created them. God blessed them and told them,

"Multiply and fill the earth and subdue it (Gen 1:27-28). When He said these words, God's life and plan prevailed. His plan was interrupted by sin. By the time we get to Revelation 22, sin and all its consequences have been defeated and put away forever. Man and God are again together with His life and plan prevailing. And, it was totally accomplished through the atoning sacrifice of the Lamb of God who took away the sin of the cosmos (John 1:29).

What is your priority in this life? Jonathan Edwards said, "It becomes us to spend this life only as a journey toward Heaven, to which we should subordinate all other concerns of life. Why should we labor for or set our hearts on anything else, but that which is our proper end and true happiness?"

While in his twenties, Edwards resolved to live his natural life endeavoring to obtain for himself as much happiness, in the other world, as he possibly could."

New Lesson+++++

Heb 11:10 By faith Abraham obeyed when he was called to go out to the place which he would receive as an inheritance. And he went out, not knowing where he was going. By faith he dwelt in the land of promise as in a foreign country, dwelling in tents with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise; for he waited for the city which has foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

Heb 11:16 These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off were assured of them, embraced them and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. And truly if they had called to mind that country from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. But now they desire a better, that is, a heavenly country. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.

Rev 21:8 But cowards who turn away from me, and unbelievers, and the corrupt, and murderers, and the immoral, and those who practice witchcraft, and idol worshipers, and all liars — their doom is in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur. This is the second death."

9 Then one of the seven angels who held the seven bowls containing the seven last plagues came and said to me, "Come with me! I will show you the bride, the wife of the Lamb." 10 So he took me in spirit to a great, high mountain, and he showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, descending out of heaven from God. 11 It was filled with the glory of God and sparkled like a precious gem, crystal clear like jasper. 12 Its walls were broad and high, with twelve gates guarded by twelve angels. And the names of the twelve tribes of Israel were written on the gates. 13 There were three gates on each side — east, north, south, and west. 14 The wall of the city had twelve foundation stones, and on them were written the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb.

15 The angel who talked to me held in his hand a gold measuring stick to measure the city, its gates, and its wall. 16 When he measured it, he found it was a square, as wide as it was long. Its length, breadth, and height are equal, for its length and width and height were each 1,400 miles. 17 Then he measured the walls and found them to be 216 feet thick (the angel used a standard human measure).

18 The wall was made of jasper, and the city was pure gold, as clear as glass. 19 The wall of the city was built on foundation stones inlaid with twelve gems: the first was jasper, the second sapphire, the third agate, the fourth emerald, 20 the fifth onyx, the sixth carnelian, the seventh chrysolite, the eighth beryl, the ninth topaz, the tenth chrysoprase, the eleventh jacinth, the twelfth amethyst. 21 The twelve gates were made of pearls — each gate from a single pearl! And the main street was pure gold, as clear as glass.

22 No temple could be seen in the city, for the Lord God Almighty and the Lamb are its temple. 23 And the city has no need of sun or moon, for the glory of God illuminates the city, and the Lamb is its light. 24 The nations of the earth will walk in its light, and the rulers of the world will come and bring their glory to it. 25 Its gates never close at the end of day because there is no night. 26 And all the nations will bring their glory and honor into the city. 27 Nothing evil will be allowed to enter — no one who practices shameful idolatry and dishonesty — but only those whose names are written in the Lamb's Book of Life.

Revelation 22:1 And the angel showed me a pure river with the water of life, clear as crystal, flowing from the throne of God and of the Lamb, 2 coursing down the center of the main street. On each side of the river grew a tree of life, bearing twelve crops of fruit, with a fresh crop each month. The leaves were used for medicine to heal the nations.

3 No longer will anything be cursed. For the throne of God and of the Lamb will be there, and his servants will worship him. 4 And they will see his face, and his name will be written on their foreheads. 5 And there will be no night there — no need for lamps or sun — for the Lord God will shine on them. And they will reign forever and ever.

6 Then the angel said to me, "These words are trustworthy and true: 'The Lord God, who tells his prophets what the future holds, has sent his angel to tell you what will happen soon.' " 7 "Look, I am coming soon! Blessed are those who obey the prophecy written in this scroll."

8 I, John, am the one who saw and heard all these things. And when I saw and heard these things, I fell down to worship the angel who showed them to me. 9 But again he said, "No, don't worship me. I am a servant of God, just like you and

your brothers the prophets, as well as all who obey what is written in this scroll. Worship God!"

10 Then he instructed me, "Do not seal up the prophetic words you have written, for the time is near. 11 Let the one who is doing wrong continue to do wrong; the one who is vile, continue to be vile; the one who is good, continue to do good; and the one who is holy, continue in holiness."

12 "See, I am coming soon, and my reward is with me, to repay all according to their deeds. 13 I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End." 14 Blessed are those who wash their robes so they can enter through the gates of the city and eat the fruit from the tree of life. 15 Outside the city are the dogs — the sorcerers, the sexually immoral, the murderers, the idol worshipers, and all who love to live a lie.

16 "I, Jesus, have sent my angel to give you this message for the churches. I am both the source of David and the heir to his throne. I am the bright morning star."

17 The Spirit and the bride say, "Come." Let each one who hears them say, "Come." Let the thirsty ones come — anyone who wants to. Let them come and drink the water of life without charge. 18 And I solemnly declare to everyone who hears the prophetic words of this book: If anyone adds anything to what is written here, God will add to that person the plagues described in this book. 19 And if anyone removes any of the words of this prophetic book, God will remove that person's share in the tree of life and in the holy city that are described in this book.

20 He who is the faithful witness to all these things says, "Yes, I am coming soon!" Amen! Come, Lord Jesus! 21 The grace of the Lord Jesus be with you all.