

Heaven and Hell

(A collection of articles relating to heaven and hell, and how people wind up in one place or the other.)

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Table of Contents

Such is the Kingdom of Heaven	3
That Other Place (hell).....	7
Great Tribulation? Big Deal!	11
The Cleft of the Rock – OR – Who Can be Saved?.....	15
What Will and Won't be in Heaven?	17
Does a Christian Have Eternal Security?.....	19
Additional Scriptures	21

Such is the Kingdom of Heaven

Pretend it is your dream vacation. You can choose the destination according to your interests and wishes. You can also choose the length of the vacation. Don't worry about your job or responsibilities. Think of all the marvelous food you can sample at all the stops you make. And by the way, calories don't count on this trip, so you can eat all you want. Everything you can imagine will be granted immediately without reservation on this astonishingly perfect trip.

How much time would you spend planning this trip if you were actually going to get to take the trip? I expect you would spend days, weeks, and maybe even years planning every moment of such a fabulous trip.

I think you know such a trip will never happen. Even if you had the resources to plan the 'perfect vacation', it would not be perfect. Human nature is just not compatible with perfection. No matter what amount of time and effort you may put into anything, you will never achieve perfection for even an entire hour, much less an entire vacation. You can achieve really good results, and have a wonderful time doing lots of things. But perfection is just not going to happen.

But perfection is promised to all who believe. We have an eternal home in a real place called heaven. The Bible tells us that eye has not seen, nor ear heard, nor has it entered into the heart of man what God has for them that love Him. Well, that's great. Heaven is indescribably wonderful and beyond imagination. That's good news. But it does cause me to begin to consider just what could be so wonderful that it can't be explained? Since that is where I will spend eternity, I would like to know a little about the place. What most people know about heaven is that you have to die to get there and it keeps you out of hell. But wouldn't you like to know a little more. Does the Bible give any clues?

The Bible tells us that there is a city called heaven. It is described as what sounds like a cube to me - and really big. It will be spectacular in appearance - with all kinds of beautiful stones on the walls.

We know that we will eat in heaven because Jesus ate food after His resurrection. There could be angel cooks. God did send an angle cook to Elijah when he was hiding in the cave. Apparently the angle cook did a good job - because Elijah asked for seconds and thirds! That is good to know.

But what else is in heaven? What is it like? We have a major clue as to what is in heaven when Jesus spoke of the little children. He said, "Suffer the little children to come unto me and forbid them not, for such is the kingdom of heaven."

At first glance, there doesn't appear to be much of a clue there. The phrase that has stayed in my mind for many years is 'such is the kingdom of heaven'. So the question became, "What is in the little children that will be in heaven?" Some of the things you find in children are:

Innocence. A child is just innocent. Their little hearts are pure. Yes, they are born with the sin nature. But the trials and sorrows of the world have not given them a worldly outlook. Their eyes, the windows to the soul, just look at you with a pure light that cannot be regained once lost.

Trust. An innocent child trusts those around him or her. If you tell a child something, they will believe you. They will trust you to feed them, clothe them, and provide for what ever is needed. Again, once trust is broken, it cannot be restored.

Honesty. Children are honest. That honesty can bring about some very interesting situations. Most kids just can't lie. It is really refreshing unless your kid is the one honestly and truthfully repeating something you said. When you consider the honesty of children, remember the old adage 'little pitchers have big ears'. Be careful what you say in front children.

Joy. Children are just joyful. They are not daunted by the most depressing of situations. They have an ability to live within a moment in time.

Contentment. Kids can be content with whatever they have unless they have a parent who is not content with anything. Small children don't care what they wear, or what anyone else wears. They just want to play and have fun.

Delight. Children are easily delighted. You don't have to do a lot to impress them. If a grown up is willing to play with them, they are delighted.

Optimism. Kids expect the best. It takes a lot to destroy the optimism in a child.

Health. Children are generally blest with good health. (Of course their exceptions to the rule.)

Strength. The physical strength of a child is hard to estimate. They have the strength of the soul that comes with their innocence. But they also had the boundless energy that comes from physical strength. You cannot wear them down. They just keep going.

Laughter. Kids are born knowing that laughter is good for the soul. They find humor in everything. They are easily amused and entertained. They can watch the same inane cartoon and laugh hysterically every time.

Purpose. Children have purpose too. They set their mind on something, and it takes an earthquake or some other natural disaster to distract them.

Intelligence. The mind of a child is like a sponge. They soak up everything easily. Most two year olds can use the remote for the television, the satellite dish, the VCR and DVD players, and probably the mouse on the computer. How would you begin to count everything children learn in their first three years of life? It seems like they just soak in everything like a wet sponge. They are always learning something.

Love. Children are little bundles of love, just waiting to share love with whomever they meet. God is love. He fills the little ones with His love probably because they are the most willing and able to receive His love. Love is freely passed on by children to anyone who is willing to spend the time with them to get it. The kids know that God, being love, has an unlimited supply of love. They cannot give away more love than God will give back to them.

So what are your thoughts on heaven? Have you ever considered actually living there? Or have you just thought that you will have to die to get there? I have seen several people quite close to me go through a lengthy illness that eventually resulted in death. It was sad. But those
Heaven and Hell

around them saw the sick persons change their focus from living in this temporary world to living in the eternal world. Our faith was strengthened by their illness and death. Through their eyes, we began to see heaven as a very real place, full of very real people doing very real things. Of course the separation from loved ones is difficult. That is another one of those things that defies description. It is horrible. But beyond the sorrow and devastation that comes with the death of a loved one is joy of knowing there is a future reunion in a land where sorrow will not be allowed entry.

I urge you to look beyond your life and current situation to the wonderful place called heaven. Think about it. There is an appointed time for each of us to journey there. I pray for many more years here on earth with my husband and children and grandchildren. But the day will come when each believer is escorted to that perfect place. In the mean time, we all have responsibilities. We will have joy and love, but also some sorrow and hardship. Each day brings new challenges as well as the same boring stuff from the day before. But within each day, you can find a few moments to think on the good things that God has for you if you love Him. It will in no wise detract from your ability to do more than your duty right now. In fact, thinking on the good things of God will strengthen you to do a better job at what ever tasks you must complete.

"Pearly White City" is the song for this article. I love the first line. It tells us that God is the builder of the city, and the ruler of the city. It couldn't get any better than that! It is good to sing about heaven. Because of heaven, you have a wonderful future. Regardless of your current situation - good or bad - you can look forward with joy and anticipation to something much better in that eternal place called heaven.

The Pearly White City

Words & Music: Arthur F. Ingler, 1902.

*There's a holy and beautiful city
Whose Builder and Ruler is God;
John saw it descending from Heaven,
When Patmos, in exile, he trod;
Its high, massive wall is of jasper,
The city itself is pure gold;
And when my frail tent here is folded,
Mine eyes shall its glory behold.*

*In that bright city, pearly white city,
I have a mansion, a harp, and a crown;
Now I am watching, waiting, and longing,
For the white city that's soon coming down.*

*No sin is allowed in that city
And nothing defiling or mean;
No pain and no sickness can enter,
No crepe on the doorknob is seen;
Earth's sorrows and cares are forgotten,
No tempter is there to annoy;
No parting words ever are spoken,
There's nothing to hurt or destroy.*

*In that bright city, pearly white city,
I have a mansion, a harp, and a crown;
Now I am watching, waiting, and longing,
For the white city that's soon coming down.*

*No heartaches are known in that city,
No tears ever moisten the eyes;
There's no disappointment in Heaven,
No envy and strife in the sky;
The saints are all sanctified wholly,
They live in sweet harmony there;
My heart is now set on that city,
And some day its blessings I'll share.*

*In that bright city, pearly white city,
I have a mansion, a harp, and a crown;
Now I am watching, waiting, and longing,
For the white city that's soon coming down.*

*My loved ones are gathering yonder,
My friends too are passing away,
And soon I shall join their bright number,
And dwell in eternity's day;
They're safe now in glory with Jesus,
Their trials and battles are past.
They overcame sin and the tempter,
They've reached that fair city at last.*

*In that bright city, pearly white city,
I have a mansion, a harp, and a crown;
Now I am watching, waiting, and longing,
For the white city that's soon coming down.*

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/p/w/pwhitcit.htm>

That Other Place (hell)

There he was. Five years old, smiling, dimples all over his little face, and headed straight for my lap. It was David, my grandson. I only have two. The other one is 14 months younger. His name is Caleb. They are very different, but both adorable beyond description. If Caleb ever comes to me with that wide eyed innocent grin, I know he wants something. He usually gets it, but I at least know in advance that he is after something. David is different. He just sits on your lap for no reason. He is loving, giving, sharing, and very easy to handle. If he has a problem, he takes it to his daddy. The only thing I usually have to do with David is help him find his socks. But that day was different. He had a question.

"What is in hell Bema?" He asked. (He calls me Bema instead of grandma).

I was really surprised by the question. But I had a ready answer. "You better ask your dad about that!" I quickly replied.

"I already asked dad. He said to ask you!" David replied.

I couldn't believe it. Could it be that my perfect son in law wasn't actually perfect.

"Well, let me think," I said. My mind was racing. David was still five, and prone to nightmares. What on earth would be the correct thing to say about hell?

Minutes passed.

"Bema, I'm still waiting," David said.

Close to panic I thought, "This would be the one who has such an advanced attention span." There was nothing to do but give him some sort of answer.

"Hell is a very dark place. It is never light in hell." I answered.

"OK," he said, and went up stairs to play.

But then I started thinking about hell. What will it be like?

It will be dark. I don't exactly what that means though. The Bible tells us in Genesis chapter one, verse 3 that God said "let there be light and there was light". and God divided the light from the darkness (verse 4).

But later in the chapter (verse 16) it says, "and God made two great lights, the greater light to rule the day, and the lesser light to rule the night. He made the stars also."

I have heard it preached many times that the first light was the light of God. The lights of verse 16 was of course the sun, moon, and stars.

God won't be present in hell, so the light of God will not be there.

I wonder if the light of God was withdrawn for a few hours when Jesus was on the cross. The Bible tells us in Luke 23:44 'there was a darkness over all the earth'. Anyway, I don't know what other sort of light might be in hell, but the light of God will not be there.

In fact, nothing that is of God will be in hell. So if we consider the characteristics of God, we have a catalog of what will not be in hell.

The Bible also tells us that God is love. There is no love outside God. The love we have for others is a gift from God. We do have to accept the love to pass on to others. But no human has the ability or capacity to manufacture love. God has an endless supply, so don't worry about Him running out. There is plenty for everyone, but there is only one source from which true love comes. Love comes from God alone.

God is merciful. He is the source of mercy. All who have received Jesus have received mercy. But God is merciful to each of us in our daily lives.

God is patient. Without God, there will be no patience in hell.

God is a rewarder of those that diligently seek him. There will be no rewards in hell.

God is the author of friendship. Abraham was a friend of God. God will be your friend too if you ask Him. If you want to be special to God, make God special to you! But without God, there will be no friendship in hell. It is a standard joke among the scoffers that they want to go to hell because all their friends will be there. The fact they are missing is that without God, all their friends will only be unimportant acquaintances.

God is the rock or foundation for every good thing. He provides stability. The day and night are set by God. The seasons are set by God. Gravity works because God makes it work. The ocean tides go in and out day after day. Everything that is set and stable is maintained by God. There will be no stability in hell.

There will be no laughter in hell. Nothing humorous or joyous will ever happen.

There will be no music in hell. There will be no 'singing and making melody in your heart to the Lord'.

There will be rest from anything; no rest from labor; no rest from weariness; no rest from sorrow; no rest from anything.

Hell will have no peace. There is no peace without God. There probably won't even be one second of false peace, where people could breath easy and rest for just a second.

Hell will be filled with those eternally separated from God. That is referred to as the second death. So all who dwell there will be aware of their surroundings, but eternally separated from all that is good. We know the rich man in hell lifted up his eyes and saw and talked to Abraham. At least at that time those in hell were aware of what they had missed.

Hell will be filled with the devil and his angels. I don't know if they will also be in torment, or if they will be busy tormenting the souls who rejected the offer of salvation made by Jesus Christ. It could be both. I don't know. I do know it will be awful either way.

There are no vacations in hell. Even if you could get a vacation, where would you go? To the other side of the dark and hopeless place?

There will be nothing new in hell.

There will be no opportunity to change in hell. A life that is changed in this mortal life is changed only by the grace of God. That is true whether or not the one changing acknowledges God as the source of change or not.

There is no grace, no goodness, no pleasure, no comfort, no leader, and not one tiny pleasure to distract the soul of the lost from the darkness in which he or she will eternally dwell. Hell really is so bad, it is beyond what we can comprehend. Equally true is that heaven is so wonderful that it is beyond what we can comprehend.

Every person has a choice to make. Where will you spend your eternity? It costs nothing to make the decision except a little humility.

Are you weary today? It is nothing to the weariness of eternity spent in a place called hell. There is no rest there. The Bible calls it a place of torment; a place of weeping and wailing and gnashing of teeth; a place of eternal separation from all that is good and lovely.

Are you hungry for a better life today? Is there a desire for something good and noble? Through Jesus Christ your hunger can be satisfied.

What good do you want for yourself and those around you? If you don't receive it here in this life, then surely it will come to you in heaven if you only accept Jesus, the Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

The Bible speaks of hell many times. It is a fact. There will be no escape from hell. There will be no pardon for the inmates of that terrible place.

Many have questioned why God will not eventually allow the souls out of hell. Could it be because there would never be any real repentance from the inhabitants of hell?

The fallen angels actually lived in heaven. They lived in a perfect place doing wonderful things. Yet one third of the angels followed Lucifer in rebellion against God. A giant cosmic war was the result. The Bible also tells of a thousand year kingdom. During that time Jesus will rule and reign on the earth. The Devil and his angels will be bound up in the bottomless pit during that time. Yet humans will still manage to sin and turn from God. And at the end of the one thousand years when the Devil is set free, he will not come out of the pit begging forgiveness. He will come out of the pit still filled with hate and seeking to destroy the earth again. And the people who chose to follow Satan in rebellion will act the same way.

But today, there is still time for you to make peace with God. There is still time for you to tell your loved ones and friends and strangers you meet on the street that Jesus saves. Whether you are at the top of a powerful and successful life like Moses, or at the lowest point of your life like the thief on the cross - NOW is the perfect time to set your destiny for eternity. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shall be saved!!!!

The hymn for this article is "There's a Great Day Coming". Are you ready?

THERE'S A GREAT DAY COMING

*There's a great day coming, a great day coming;
There's a great day coming by and by,
When the saints and the sinners shall be parted right and left,
Are you ready for that day to come?*

Refrain

*Are you ready? Are you ready?
Are you ready for the judgment day?
Are you ready? Are you ready?
For the judgment day?*

*There's a bright day coming, a bright day coming;
There's a bright day coming by and by.
But its brightness shall only come to them that love the Lord.
Are you ready for that day to come?*

Refrain

*There's a sad day coming, a sad day coming;
There's a sad day coming by and by,
When the sinner shall hear his doom: "Depart, I know you not!"
Are you ready for that day to come?*

Refrain

<http://www.cyberhymnal.org/htm/t/g/tgreatda.htm>

Great Tribulation? Big Deal!

There is a time coming that Bible believers call 'The Great Tribulation', or the 'Time of Jacob's trouble', a time of trouble such as the world has never seen. There have been numerous books written on this time period. Authors have tried to explain exactly what will happen during this time. Other authors have gone into the realm of fiction in an attempt to show the awful things the world and its citizens will face during that time.

In fiction:

The heroic realize their folly in rejecting Jesus Christ when they had the chance. They lament being 'left behind'. Then they commit to Jesus Christ and fight the good fight until they are martyred for their faith, or until Jesus returns. I have read a lot of those books myself. I don't have a problem with them. And I enjoyed most of them.

The thing is this, mankind does not have the capacity to understand or explain the utter terror of that seven years.

If you look around you, you will see millions of people who are currently delusional. They believe things their inflated egos want to believe like:

- I am a good person so I will naturally be going to heaven.
- I am an enlightened person, so I will not only go to heaven, I will be a god when I get there.
- God wouldn't let anyone go to hell.
- There isn't a hell.
- There isn't even a heaven.
- We are all going to the same place anyway.
- If I miss heaven this time around, I will get another chance in my next life.

These delusional people currently have the Holy Spirit to speak to their hearts and conscience.

The Holy Spirit tells them now:

- 'These things are lies of the devil.
- Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and be saved.
- God is the Authority.
- God is merciful if you but ask Him.
- Come to God the Father through Jesus Christ the Son.'
- And when the prompting of the Holy Spirit is rejected, He tells them again that they must be saved.

Then they reject Him yet again. They see themselves as wiser than the God who created them.

You know, the 'dead in Christ' and 'we that are alive and remain' are not the only ones who are going to leave the earth when the Lord Himself descends with a trump and shout. The Holy Spirit is going to leave as well.

There will be no human being left to tell the lost person to be saved.

The Holy Spirit will be gone as well.

There will be people who 'feel' like they are on the right path.

The government will tell them what to do in the crisis situation.

The government and its charismatic head will call on all people to join the new world order and commit their lives to its leader.

Those who refuse to commit will find themselves persecuted even unto death.

Now where are they going to such courage?

They didn't even have the courage to buck the world system when it was only going to get them a few stares or frowns for being different. How could they possibly have the courage to buck the system when it will get them killed?

Something happened a while back that made me begin to consider just how incomprehensible that time of terror will be. I read that Hamas had legalized crucifixion of those who reject Islam. I had always had the idea that people in the tribulation would have to stand bravely at a guillotine and refuse the mark. This brave deed would be followed by having their heads chopped off very quickly. Some of the bolder martyrs might even quote from 'A Tale of Two Cities', and say something like, 'It is a far better place that I go to now than I have been before – and a far better rest' just before their heads roll.

But, the word 'crucifixion' put things in an entirely different light. It brought extreme torture into the picture. I could see the followers of Lucifer nailing one foot of the dissenter to a cross while they demanded, 'Take the mark and live'. Then the next foot nailed to the cross. 'Take the mark and live you fool,' they might shout, or laugh. Then one hand; then the other hand. Then the cross is dropped in the pit. Then as time slowly runs out, the one hanging on the cross is taunted with, 'Take the mark. We'll get you down, and you will be healed.'

And all that is only after the poor living soul has already been through trouble such as the world has never seen.

The human being living during the Biblical tribulations will face two distinct trials.

First, the one talked about most often is the persecution by the anti-christ. He and his followers will persecute those who refuse to join the 'save the earth' crowd relentlessly. They will take it as a personal insult and criticism when anyone who rejects their god and ideology. Those who refuse to worship the new leader will find themselves without a single second of peace or real rest. They will be mentally exhausted in about a week, but they will have seven years to endure.

Second, 'mother nature' will show her true colors. The environmental disasters will come, and come, and come again. A simplistic picture would be like surviving Hurricane Katrina, then a few days later the levee breaks, then a few days later there is a great earthquake and a tidal Heaven and Hell

wave, then an asteroid falls in the middle of town causing fire to burn much of what is left. Food and livestock are destroyed. There is no food, no drinking water, no modern conveniences, no medicine, no hot shower or warm soak in a tub with scented bath salts. The entire world of comfort and safety is suddenly gone.

And after all that happens, more disasters happen. And then more disasters happen again.

As disasters intensify, persecution will also intensify because the citizens who have set their course with the anti-christ will blame the dissenters for the problems. The alternative would be to blame their 'god'.

Of course, it goes without saying that within the natural disasters and political/religious revolution, there will also be a financial disaster. Goods and services will be virtually unavailable to almost everyone. Human life will be of no value at all. Every human being will see others as just someone competing with them for the food that is available. It will be every man for himself, and that 'love thy neighbor' stuff will be ancient history.

People will be afraid as in 'terrified beyond reason'. That means they won't be able to reason. They will be so afraid they will not be able to think clearly. I have heard it said that after a trauma or tragic loss, it is best for the bereaved to make no major decisions for at least one year, because it takes that long for the mind to recover enough to be able to make a sound decision. The people living in the tribulation won't have time to recover from anything. Events will be too fast and furious. It will be one trauma after another.

Let's do a recap.

Society/government will be in the process of becoming totalitarian. Those who oppose will be persecuted to death.

The environment will be in turmoil.

Within these sorrows there will be turmoil in:

- Family - for those who have any family or loved ones left.
- Jobs - with everything that will be going on, there will be a financial collapse.
- Society – every rule of civilized society will be thrown away.

The extreme intensity of that time of terror cannot be comprehended.

Yes, there will be some who are saved during this time. I don't know who they will be.

I don't know how they will come by their knowledge of Jesus Christ, their understanding of the way of salvation, and the courage to accept Christ under such terrifying circumstances.

I do know they will be few in number. And of those saved, even fewer will survive to the end of the age.

I know that most of the people who read my articles and blog are already saved. If you are not saved, then I pray you will go to God according to His instructions.

That is to:

Acknowledge that you are separated from God by your sin. Your 'sin' means you are not perfect. You are human, so you are not perfect. The problem is that God Almighty IS perfect. God WANTS to clean you up so that you can come into His perfect home without polluting it. That is done through the cleansing blood of Jesus Christ.

Don't ask me to explain how it works, but on the word of God Himself, I can promise you that Jesus made a way for you to enter the kingdom of heaven, AND to escape the second death – which is separation from God for eternity in a place called hell, AND to escape the Great Tribulation. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

And since most of my readers ARE already Christians, I am also hoping this article will give you some thoughts about the tribulation, and the horror the lost will suffer then and in eternity. I hope it will encourage you to pray for the lost, and tell them about Jesus.

The Cleft of the Rock – OR – Who Can be Saved?

'What must I do to be saved?' was a question asked in Acts 16:30.

The answer given was 'Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.'

To 'believe on the Lord Jesus Christ' is to:

- believe the words that Christ is the Son of God, the Savior of the world.
- have faith that Jesus Christ has the power and authority to make good on His promise to save you from hell and give you entrance to paradise.
- acknowledge that Christ's death on the cross paid your penalty for sin.

The question and answer are still the same today.

The key to salvation is to actually follow the instructions given. One must obediently step into the ark of safety provided by Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ, the believer is shielded or secured from the wrath and judgment of God.

Everyone is called to step into the safety of the rock.

Few actually do.

God has chosen that His judgment will pass over those who hide themselves in Jesus Christ.

Moses was invited to step into the Clift of the Rock, which is Jesus Christ. (Exodus 33:22) Once Moses was in the Rock, the face of God passed by. God did not look on Moses in judgment. Because of the Rock, Moses was spared.

All people are called to step into the Clift of the Rock.

Those who **do** answer the call are chosen by God to be spared judgment.

Those who **do not** answer the call will face the full measure of God's judgment.

From the Clift of the Rock, Moses had a spectacular view of God's goodness and glory of God.

The truly repentant sinner has the same view.

In the Rock of Jesus Christ, Moses had a place of refuge, salvation, and strength.

The truly repentant sinner also has a place of refuge, salvation, and strength in Jesus Christ.

Jesus Christ is the rock of my salvation spoken of in Psalm 62:7 and 89:26.

God is still calling mankind to step into the safety of the cleft of the rock with repentance and sincerity of heart.

Some people may feel that God does not want them personally.

This is not true.

God does want everyone to come to Him through Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 3:9 tell us, 'The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.'

It is not God's will that any should perish and miss heaven.

God has called you personally to step into the safety of the rock, to believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

In Jesus Christ there is mercy and safety from the judgment of God.

Outside of Christ, there is judgment.

What Will and Won't be in Heaven?

Heaven is the eternal destination of all believers. I often consider the things that will and won't be in heaven. There won't be any sin, sorrow, heartbreak, disappointments, or even tears in heaven. There won't be any temptations. There won't even be any sin at all.

There won't be any difference of opinion on the truth's of God. That means ONLY those who go to God according to His instructions will reach the heavenly city. Someone once told me he hoped heaven was a big place so God could put factions who disagree with each other in very different locations. After all, if God put the Moslems and the Christians on the same block, it would just be the same old problems all over again. And, no, I am not making that up. The guy actually said that. He came from a Christian background – but he was 'enlightened' when he went to college and gave up all that exclusive ideology. I have news for him which I delivered in person the same time he gave me his thoughts on heaven. People who don't agree with the God of creation on how to get into heaven will not be in heaven. They will be in a place other gods call 'heaven', but it will be the place God calls hell.

There won't be any who oppose God. God's truth will be written in the hearts of all the inhabitants of heaven. Without the difference of opinion regarding truth and the right way to get things done, there won't be any war. Imagine that! No war. Really.

However, there will be individuality. Within the boundaries of God's truth, and His righteousness, there will be ba-zillions of individuals. God isn't interested in clones. One of each of us enough. God creates each snowflake unique. He likes variety. If god had wanted a bunch of zombie like beings, He could have made them and integrated them into heaven much more easily than what He has gone through with mankind.

We will know each other in heaven. Jesus disciples even knew Moses and Elijah at the transfiguration, and they had never even met them. We will know each other.

There is a song called 'Sweet Beulah Land'. A line from the song says, 'no sad farewells will there be spoken, for time won't matter anymore.' I don't really understand how that works, but we will not be limited by the constraints of time as we now know it.

There will be no boredom in heaven. We just aren't able to comprehend all the things that God has for those who love Him. I am afraid the flip side of that is that no one is fully able to comprehend the evil that Satan has for those who hate God.

Dear Reader, if you are saved, I will see you in heaven.

If you are not numbered among the saved, the followers of Jesus Christ, you still have time today. You don't know about tomorrow, but you have right now. Don't delay. Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved.

1. Acts 16:31

And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

Acts 16:30-32 (in Context) Acts 16 (Whole Chapter)

2. Romans 10:9

That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved.

Romans 10:8-10 (in Context) Romans 10 (Whole Chapter)

Does a Christian Have Eternal Security?

Since dad just died, many things have been on my mind. But, I seem to be thankful most of all that dad was a saved man, meaning he went immediately to heaven to be with Jesus Christ.

Many people do not believe that you can know you are saved, or that anyone can be sure of their salvation. That is interesting. They usually also believe in salvation by works instead of 'grace through faith'. You can't do anything wonderful and brave to gain your salvation. Neither can you do anything so horrible and despicable that you lose your salvation. You are saved by grace through faith. The Guarantor of your Salvation is Jesus Christ. His ability to keep you in Him has nothing to do with your actions.

Dad often used the following verses when touching on the subject of eternal security of believers with friends of different ideas.;

Ephesians chapter 2: 8-9

8. For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

9. Not of works, lest any man should boast.

Galations 2:21

21. I do not frustrate the grace of God: for if righteousness come by the law, then Christ is dead in vain.

Matthew 7: 22-23

22. Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?

23. And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Notice the word NEVER - Jesus said 'I NEVER knew you'. He didn't say 'I knew you once, but now I have forgotten you.

1 John 5:13 says, 'These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.'

If you have believed on the name of the Son of God, you can KNOW that you have eternal life. Remember that you are saved by grace through faith.

Feelings have nothing to do with it. If you sincerely asked God to save you, then He saved you. You may feel the wonder of salvation some days, and other days you may not feel so 'wonderfully saved'. God is greater than how you feel. Satan can duplicate any feeling, so feelings are not the measure of salvation.

Sin in your life can cause communication failure between you and God, but it does not change your status as God's child. God will be telling you to repent. You may be making excuses and refusing to repent. But, you are still God's child.

God is not double minded. He does not love you today and hate you tomorrow. His love is unconditional. He loves you all the time, but He is not pleased with you when you sin.

When I was teaching school a 4th grader explained eternal security of the believer like this. He said, 'When you do bad things after you become a Christian, you can still go to heaven, but God will not be very pleased with you when you get there.'

AND, God will not stand by and allow the sinful ways of His children to go without correction in this life.

Proverbs 3:12 says, 'For whom the LORD loveth he correcteth; even as a father the son in whom he delighteth.'

Eternal security does not give the Christian the right to sin. God does not like sin. He will do what all parents do with errant and wayward children. He will take whatever steps are necessary to correct His child's behavior; but, God will not disown the child that He has paid such a price to adopt. God Himself will not frustrate His own grace. He will not allow that Christ died in vain.

Do not make the mistake of believing that all trials and sorrow in Christians lives are because of sin. Remember Job. He didn't sin and suffered terrible trials. When something happens in your own life, you are the one who has to figure out what is going on between you and God.

However, you do not have to start over at square one with getting saved all over again.

When you are saved your adoption into the family of God is final.

Your adoption documents are signed in the blood of the Lamb.

You are eternally secure.

Acts 16:30-32

30. And brought them out, and said, Sirs, what must I do to be saved?

31. And they said, Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house.

32. And they spake unto him the word of the Lord, and to all that were in his house.

Additional Scripture for further reading

Heaven

Matthew 5:34

Isaiah 66:1

Colossians 3:2

Matthew 6:20-21

Ephesians 3:15

2Corinthians 12:1-4

Revelation 13:6

Hell

Luke 16:23

Matthew 5:22

Psalms 9:17

2Peter 2:4

Revelation 20:13-15

Mark 9:42-48

Deuteronomy 32:22