

“Heaven Bound”

Hebrews 11:13-14

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Key Word: Heaven, Eternity, Christian Living

Hebrews 11:13-16 ¹³ 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. ¹⁴ For those who say such things declare plainly that they seek a homeland. ¹⁵ And truly if they had called to mind that *country* from which they had come out, they would have had opportunity to return. ¹⁶ 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.*” (Vs. 16 is an echo John 14)

Because God wants to be with me

Psalm 116:15 “Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His *saints.*”

- God looks forward to spending eternity with those that have put their trust in Jesus Christ.
 - A saint is a person who has placed their faith and trust in Jesus Christ alone for their salvation.
- God’s desire has ALWAYS been to be among his people and for His people to be with Him!
 - That was broken in the Garden of Eden
 - **Genesis 3:8** “And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden.”
- Other mentions of this desire
 - **Exodus 29:45** “*I will dwell among* the children of Israel and will be their God.”
 - **Zechariah 2:10** “Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! For behold, I am coming and *I will dwell in* your midst,” says the Lord.”
 - **John 14:1-3** ¹ Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. ² 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. ³ 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.*”
 - **John 14:16-18** ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever—¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you

know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you. ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.”

- **2 Corinthians 6:16** “I will dwell in them and walk among them. I will be their God, and they shall be My people.”
- **Revelation 21:3** “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.”
- **Matthew 1:23** “Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel,” which is translated, “God with us.”
 - Promised in Isaiah 7:14

Because we all must die

Ecclesiastes 3:1-2 “¹ To everything there is a season, **A time** for every purpose under heaven: ² **A time to be born, and a time to die;**”

For everything in life there is a time, even for death.
Death is always an untimely event

God allows Death, it's merely the **vehicle** that ushers us from this life into the next.

Human existence isn't terminated at death!

Death isn't the end!

“Even though most Americans believe in life after death and the existence of the soul, not everyone is clear about their own ultimate destination. One in every four adults (24%) admitted that they have “no idea” what will happen after they die.” Barna

- **Ecclesiastes 3:11** “He has made everything beautiful in its time. Also He has put eternity in their hearts...”
- **Ecclesiastes 12:6-7** “⁶ *Remember your Creator* before the silver cord is loosed, Or the golden bowl is broken, Or the pitcher shattered at the fountain, Or the wheel broken at the well. ⁷ Then the dust will return to the earth as it was, and the spirit will return to God who gave it.”
- **Daniel 12:2** “And many of those who sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to *everlasting life*, some to *shame and everlasting contempt.*”

There are only two types of people that exist in the world

- Believers and Unbelievers

For the Believer...

1 Corinthians 15:53-54 “this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal *must* put on immortality. ⁵⁴ 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.*”

- This life is temporary, and for the believer, death is swallowed up in immediate victory!
 - Death has lost! JESUS WINS!
 - Death isn't the end, but the beginning!
 - Eternity is forever!!!

*“When we've been there ten thousand years
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we've first begun.”
Amazing Grace Lyrics*

2 Corinthians 4:16-17 ¹⁶ Therefore we do not lose heart. **Even though our outward man is perishing, yet the inward *man* is being renewed day by day.** ¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ..”

- **Through** suffering, God is working in YOU a far more exceeding and ETERNAL weight of glory!
- **HE** is **FAITHFUL** to complete what **HE** started!
 - **Philippians 1:6** “He who has begun a good work in you will complete *it* until the day of Jesus Christ...”

God doesn't consider age;

- **Psalm 39:5** ⁵ Indeed, You have made my days as handbreadths, and ***my age is as nothing before You***; certainly every man at his best state is but vapor.”
 - **Psalm 90:12** “So teach *us* to number our days, that we may gain a heart of wisdom.”
- **Isaiah 57:1-2** ¹ Good people pass away; the godly often die before their time. But no one seems to care or wonder why. No one seems to understand that God is protecting them from the evil to come. ² For those who follow godly paths will rest in peace when they die.”

Why is it that we think it so bad to die? I think it's because we don't know how AWESOME and AMAZING heaven is.

- **2 Corinthians 12:2-4** ² I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago—whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows—such a one was caught up to the third heaven. ³ And I know such a man—whether in the

body or out of the body I do not know, God knows—⁴ how he was caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter.”

- **Psalm 37:18** “The Lord knows the days of the upright, and ***their inheritance shall be forever.***”
- **Psalm 16:11** “In Your presence *is* fullness of joy; at Your right hand *are* pleasures forevermore.”
- The Apostle Paul looked forward to this!!!
 - **Philippians 1:21-23** “²¹ For to me, to live *is* Christ, and to die *is* gain. ²² But if I live on in the flesh, this *will mean* fruit from *my* labor; yet what I shall choose I cannot tell. ²³ For I am hard-pressed between the two, having a desire to depart and be with Christ, *which is* far better.”

For the Unbeliever...

Revelation 20:11-15 “¹¹ Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away. And there was found no place for them. ¹² And I saw the dead, small and great, standing before God, and books were opened. And another book was opened, which is *the Book of Life*. And the dead were judged according to their works, by the things which were written in the books. ¹³ The sea gave up the dead who were in it, and Death and Hades delivered up the dead who were in them. And they were judged, each one according to his works. ¹⁴ Then Death and Hades were cast into the lake of fire. **This is the second death.** ¹⁵ And anyone not found written in the Book of Life was cast into the lake of fire.”

- **Matthew 25:41** “**Then he will say to those on his left, ‘Depart from me, you who are cursed, into the eternal fire prepared for the devil and his angels.’**”
 - **Matthew 25:46** “**Then they will go away to eternal punishment, but the righteous to eternal life.**”
- **2 Peter 2:9-10** “⁹ ...the Lord knows how to rescue the godly from trials and to hold the unrighteous for punishment on the day of judgment. ¹⁰ This is especially true of those who follow the corrupt desire...”

Because Jesus Paid my way

“George Barna, the founder of the company that conducted the research, pointed out that “Americans’ willingness to embrace beliefs that are logically contradictory and their preference for blending different faith views together create unorthodox religious viewpoints.” For instance, he noted that among born again Christians – who believe that they will experience eternal existence in Heaven solely because they have confessed their sins to God and are depending upon Jesus Christ to spare them from eternal punishment or rejection – 10% believe that people are reincarnated after death, 29% claim it is possible to communicate with the dead, and 50% contend that a person can earn salvation based upon good works.”

- *For the 10%*
 - **Hebrews 9:27-28** “²⁷ And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many.”

- *For the 29%*
 - **2 Corinthians 5:6-8** “⁶ So we are always **confident**, 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 confident, yes, well pleased rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord.”
- *For the 50%*
 - **Romans 6:23** “For the *wages* of sin is death, but the *gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - **Ephesians 2:8-9** “⁸ For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; *it is* the gift of God, ⁹ *not of works*, lest anyone should boast.”

1 Corinthians 15:3-4 “³ For I delivered to you first of all that which I also received: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, ⁴ and that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day according to the Scriptures...”

1 Corinthians 15:21-22 “²¹ For since by man *came* death, by Man also *came* the resurrection of the dead. ²² For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ all shall be made alive.”

- BUT WHY?
 - Why did He do it?
 - **John 3:16** “For God *so loved* the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.”
 - **John 15:13** “*Greater love* has no one than this, than to lay down one’s life for his friends.”
 - **Ephesians 2:4-5** “⁴ But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which *He loved us*, ⁵ even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ.”
 - **Romans 5:6-8** “⁶ For when we were still without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly. ⁷ For scarcely for a righteous man will one die; yet perhaps for a good man someone would even dare to die. ⁸ But God demonstrates *His own love toward us*, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.”
 - **1 John 4:9-10** “⁹ In this the love of God was manifested toward us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him. ¹⁰ In this is love, not that we loved God, but that *He loved us* and sent His Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins.”

- ***That's the gospel!***
 - The **GOOD** news!
 - Salvation means that we are saved from something and to something.

The whole gospel is that we are saved from an eternity of torment and separation and will inherit heaven and ALL because of Jesus!

Believer...

Romans 1:16 “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation...”

“In 1980 a young man from Rwanda was forced by his tribe to either renounce Christ or face certain death. He refused to renounce Christ, and he was killed on the spot. The night before he had written the following commitment which was found in his room:

“I’m part of the fellowship of the unashamed, the die has been cast, I have stepped over the line, the decision has been made- I’m a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won’t look back, let up, slow down, back away or be still.

My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I’m finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed vision, worldly talking, cheap giving & dwarfed goals.

My face is set, my gait is fast, my goal is heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I won’t give up, shut up, let up until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up for the cause of Jesus Christ.

I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till everyone knows, work till He stops me & when He comes for His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me because my banner will have been clear.”

Unbeliever...Receive Jesus into your heart!

To get your name in the Lambs book of Life you must be born again. You can do that now simply by;

1. Admitting you are a sinner
2. Repent or turn from your sin
3. Ask God for forgiveness
4. Receive Jesus as your Lord and Savior.