

The Promise of the Afterlife

I have a very important question for all of you!!!

Why did you come to church today? or Why do you read your Bible? or Why do you Pray?

Those are very important questions to find out **what motivates you... and motivates me....** To seek God...and to learn about Jesus and His promises.

We have all been on **different journeys** with different needs and motivations as to why We seek God for answers in our lives.

The Title of Todays Message is: The Promise of the Afterlife

What happens when we Die ? What is the process? Will we know where we are ?

What is it like when we get to Heaven? What happens if you don't make it? What happens if you end up in Hell. I needed to find out the answers to these questions! Statistically speaking...About 150K people die every day around the World (Over 6K per hr)

I had a few go-to scriptures that that really helped... The 1st one was **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.

The second one was 2 Corinthians 5:6-8

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.** And the 3rd one that gave me hope about the afterlife was Philipians 1:21 The apostle Paul said: **To Live is Christ...and To Die is Gain**

4 points today about the Afterlife

1. The Assurance of Jesus (John 14:1-3)

Scripture: John 14:1-3 (NKJV) **"Let not your heart be troubled;** you believe in God, believe also in Me. 2 In My Father's house are many [a]mansions; if it were not so, [b]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.

What will our Mansions be like?

The Words of Christ bring us Hope According to the literal wording of the ancient Greek, **the word for *mansions*** is better translated "**dwelling place**" or "a

place to stay." But in light of God's character, it is better translated *mansions*! This **building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens** will be a glorious place to stay, a mansion for all eternity. **Heaven's splendor** stretches far beyond **human imagination**, yet **scripture** gives us incredible glimpses into its physical majesty.

2. The Reality of Heaven (Revelation 21:1-4) NLT

"**Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth**, for **the old heaven** and **the old earth** had disappeared. And the sea was also gone. ² And I saw the holy city, the new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven like a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.

³ I heard a loud shout from the throne, saying, "Look, God's home is now among his people! He will live with them, and **they will be his people**. God himself will be with them.^[a] ⁴ **He will wipe every tear** from their eyes, and there will be **no more death or sorrow or crying or pain**. **All these things are gone forever.**"

3. Living with Eternity in Mind (Philippians 3:20-21)

But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. ²¹ **He will take our weak mortal bodies** and change them into **glorious bodies like his own**, using the same power with which **he will bring everything** under His control.

Our earthly deeds follow us with righteous responsibilities and rich rewards given for faithfulness. **Matthew 16:27** For the Son of Man will come in the glory of His Father with His angels, and then He will reward each according to his works. We shall rule **cities, nations, and lands** across the new heavens and earth.

Eternal Perspective:

Colossians 3:2: "Set your minds on things above, not on earthly things."

As Believers. We are encouraged to **focus on eternal truths** and values rather than temporary, worldly concerns. (Do not worry about things you can't control) **PRAY**

Hope and Assurance:

Romans 8:18 ¹⁸ **Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory he will reveal to us later.**

- **Eternal Investments:**

Gain the whole world but lose your soul. **Believer** vs **Non-Believer Billionaire**
The **Best Investment** we can make is trusting in and living by The Word of God

Matthew 6:19-20 **Do not store up treasures here on earth**, where moths eat them and rust destroys them, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ **Store your treasures in heaven**, where **moths and rust** cannot destroy, and thieves do not break in and steal.

Prioritize **activities** and **investments** that have **eternal significance**, such as supporting missions, **giving to the needy**, and investing time in spiritual growth.

4. The Judgment

Hebrews 9:27

And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the Judgment,

Earlier **in the message Today** I asked you **the Question?**

Why did you come to church today? and Why do you read your Bible? and Why do you Pray?

I think our answer should be...To Serve Jesus by Loving God...and Loving People...and...and to Get Ready for Heaven
Don't Forget...There is a **DIFFERENCE** between **SALVATION** and **SERVICE**

The Salvation part is 100% Jesus. The Service part is the good works that we have done since we were saved...and those good works will be given rewards by Jesus @ The Bema Seat

The next step for Believers will be the **BEMA SEAT**, or The Judgement Seat of Christ

- **What Is the Bema Seat Judgment?**

2 Corinthians 5:10: For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."

Matthew 25:23

His lord said to him, Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'