

To Tell The Truth – The Truth about Heaven **Where will we spend eternity?**

John 14:1-3 records the words of Jesus. “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.”

- Four possible beliefs about eternity:
 - o The afterlife is a myth. This world is all you’ll have, so live it up.
 - o The afterlife will eventually come after a series of reincarnations, so live carefully so you won’t come back as a cockroach.
 - o When you die, your soul will enter a “soul sleep” until the resurrection of those who know Jesus. At least you’ll get there eventually.
 - o When you die, your soul goes immediately to be with the Lord, and your body will be resurrected at Christ’s return. Get ready, be ready.

Revelations 21:1-5 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.” 5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

1. Heaven is a place where followers of Jesus go _____ upon death.

Revelation 21:1 “Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth...”

Heaven is mentioned close to _____ times in the Bible.

Matthew 3:2 “Repent, for the kingdom of Heaven is at hand.”

Matthew 5:12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great...”

2 Corinthians 5:6-8 “Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. ⁷ We live by faith, not by sight. ⁸ We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.”

2. We are either present in our body _____ or present with the Lord _____.

Philippians 1:20-24 “For I fully expect and hope that I will never be ashamed, but that I will continue to be bold for Christ, as I have been in the past. And I trust that my life will bring honor to Christ, whether I live or die. ²¹ For to me, living means living for Christ, and dying is even better. ²² But if I live, I can do more fruitful work for Christ. So I really don’t know which is better. ²³ I’m torn between two desires: I long to go and be with Christ, which would be far better for me. ²⁴ But for your sakes, it is better that I continue to live.”

1 Corinthians 15:35-44 But someone will say, “How are the dead raised? And with what kind of body do they come?” 36 You fool! That which you sow does not come to life unless it dies; 37 and that which you sow, you do not sow the body which is to be, but a bare grain, perhaps of wheat or of something else. 38 But God gives it a body just as He wished, and to each of the seeds a body of its own. 39 All flesh is not the same flesh, but there is one *flesh* of men, and another flesh of beasts, and another flesh of birds, and another of fish. 40 There are also heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is one, and the *glory* of the earthly is another. 41 There is one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for star differs from star in glory. 42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown a perishable *body*, it is raised an imperishable

body; 43 it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; 44 it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual *body*.

3. Heaven will be a _____ and _____ place where believers spend eternity.

Revelation 21:1 “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.”

- “new” means new in _____ not new in time.

• **The New Jerusalem will be _____ to the new earth.**

Revelation 21:2-3 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

Exodus 25:8 Let them construct a sanctuary (tabernacle) for Me, that I may dwell among them.

• **We’ll enjoy an eternity without _____ or suffering.**

Revelation 21:4 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.

• **We’ll enjoy an eternity where all things _____.**

Revelation 21:5 And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.”

- New – Neos = what was not there before, new in time.

- New – Kainos = what is new in nature, different from the usual, better than the old, superior in value or attraction.

2 Corinthians 5:17 “Therefore if anyone is in Christ, *he is* a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.”