

Looking Toward Heaven, Part 4: What We Will be Like in Heaven

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I. Introduction.

- A. Heaven is not anything you want it to be. It is what God made it to be.
- B. Subject: what will we be like in heaven?
- C. We will be perfect in body and soul for eternity.

II. The idea of God's redemption is to make us perfect.

- A. Salvation is a process. (Romans 13)
- B. We are a new creation. (2 Corinthians 4:14, Colossians 2:10, 2 Peter 1:3-4)

III. We are a newly created man incarcerated in the flesh as Christians. (Romans 6)

- A. The presence of sin inhibits one's ability to express new life.
- B. Eternal life is trapped in a fallen mind, emotions and will.
- C. The presence of sin has not yet been removed.
- D. The new life is a down payment of the salvation we will receive in the future.

IV. When one dies, he is immediately perfected in the presence of Christ. (Hebrews 12:22)

- A. There will be no doubt, suffering, sin or shame in heaven.
- B. Love will be perfected. (1 Corinthians 13:13, John 13:1)
- C. Heaven is the place of unmixed joy. (Matthew 25)
- D. It is a place where the Spirit and the soul will be perfected forever.

V. God created men to be body and soul, so ultimately there will be a resurrection. (John 5:28, Revelation 20, 1 Thessalonians 4:13)

- A. The human soul is limited without a body to express itself.
- B. The resurrection is a mystery--they are the same organism but there will be differences. (1 Corinthians 15)
- C. The body is raised imperishable and spiritual. It will be eternally perfect and unchanging.
- D. The body will be glorious and powerful. It gives expression to the renewed spirit.
- E. We will have a body like Jesus'. (1 John 3:2)

VI. Conclusion. Our longing for heaven should be intense.

Application Questions:

1. Why do you think it is difficult for some Christians to accept that we will ultimately be given a body in eternity?

2. How is it that we can have eternal life before we die? Explain.

3. Why is it helpful to understand that we are new creations incarcerated in the flesh? What does this mean?
