

What Happens After We Die?

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Our final state – joy in heaven for believers or torment in hell for unbelievers – is permanent.

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A. So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight. Yes, we are of good courage, and we would rather be away from the body and at home with the Lord. (2 Corinthians 5:6-8)

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*We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord.
(v.8, NIV)*

For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. (2 Cor.5:1)

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B. *My desire is to depart and be with Christ,
for that is far better.* (Philippians 1:23b)

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C. And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.”

And he [Jesus] said to him, “Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (Luke 23:42-43)

Jesus comforted this man who believed in Him with three promises:

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Immediate life after death with Jesus – *today you will be with me*

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Immediate life after death with Jesus – *today you will be with me*

Immediate life after death with Jesus in paradise
today you will be with me in paradise.

“The idea of a walled garden, enclosing a carefully cultivated area of exquisite plants and animals, was the most powerful symbol of paradise available to the human imagination, mingling the images of the beauty of nature with the orderliness of human construction.”

- Alister McGrath

“Paradise was not generally understood as mere allegory, with a metaphorical or spiritual meaning, but as an actual physical place where God and his people lived together, surrounded by physical beauty, enjoying great pleasures and happiness.”

- Randy Alcorn

³² Two others, who were criminals, were led away to be put to death with him. ³³ And when they came to the place that is called The Skull, there they crucified him, and the criminals, one on his right and one on his left. (Luke 23:32-33)

39 One of the criminals who were hanged railed at him, saying, “Are you not the Christ? Save yourself and us!” 40 But the other rebuked him, saying, “Do you not fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation? 41 And we indeed justly, for we are receiving the due reward of our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.” (Luke 23:39-41)

*we are receiving the due reward of our
deed. (v.42)*

Do you not fear God? (v.42)

And he said, “Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom.” (v.43)

“Truly, I say to you, today you will be with me in paradise.” (v.43)

So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. (2 Cor.5:9).

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil. (2 Cor.5:10)