

What happens After the Christ-Follower Dies?

Rev. 21:1-4

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more. And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling place of God is with man. He will dwell with them, and they will be his people, and God himself will be with them as their God.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away."

- Australian aborigines pictured Heaven as a distant island beyond the western horizon.
- Mexicans, Peruvians, and Polynesians believed that they went to the sun or the moon after death.
- Native Americans believed that, in the afterlife, their spirits would hunt the spirits of buffalo.
- Pyramids of Egypt, the embalmed bodies had maps placed beside them as guides to the future world.

Although these depictions of the afterlife differ, the unifying testimony of the human heart throughout history is belief in life after death. Anthropological evidence suggests that every culture has a God-given, innate sense of the eternal - that this world is not all there is.

Randy Alcorn, Heaven.

1. It is "precious" to the Lord.

Precious in the sight of the Lord...

Ps. 116:15

"Precious" – the Lord "cares deeply" (NLT)

- the Lord "values" (NET)

Heb – valuable; costly; excellent

Some lives and their deaths seem to some as ...

- . Cheap
- . No impact
- . Without value
- . To be discarded
- . Absent of purpose
- . An inconvenience

In the last days... people will be ... abusive, heartless ... brutal.

2 Tim. 3:1-3

... is the death of His saints.

Ps. 116:15

- Great expense
 - Great celebration
 - Great audience
 - Great announcement
 - Great entrance

And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this – ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on. Blessed indeed,’ says the Spirit, ‘that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them.’”

Rev. 14:13

“Lazarus” –poor, covered with sores...” Lk. 16:20
died and was carried by the angels to Abraham’s side. (22)

2. We will be in the presence

of the Lord.

And he, full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. Acts 7:55

“standing” –

- . Eagerly welcoming Stephen
- . Focused on his death
- . Rising from his throne – “Enough”
- . Rising in affirmation for Stephen, His Servant – “Well Done!”

Away from the body and at home with the Lord. 2 Cor. 5:8

Our body is called a “tent”

...In this body we groan
(2 Cor 5:1-2)

“At home?”

“At home with the Lord”

- you belong!
- You have free access!
- You are surrounded by family!
- Your Father welcomes you!
- A place prepared for you!

Think of –

Stepping on shore and finding it Heaven!

Of taking hold of a hand, and finding it God’s hand.

Of breathing a new air, and finding it celestial air.

Of feeling invigorated and finding it immortality.

Of passing from a storm to tempest to an unknown calm.

Of waking up, and finding it home.

A wanderer is one without a home.

A stranger is one away from home.

A fugitive is one who is running away from home.

A pilgrim is one who is on his way home.

I will come again and will take you to Myself, that where I am you may be also. John
14:3

I will walk before the Lord in the land of the living. Ps. 116:9

You make known to me the path of life; In Your presence there is fullness of joy; at your
right hand are pleasures forevermore.

Ps. 16:11

3. We will experience

a “personal transformation.”

- We will see Jesus face to face.

For now we see in a mirror dimly, but then face to face.

1 Cor. 13:12

We walk by faith not by sight.

2 Cor. 5:7

They will see His face.
Rev. 22:4

“I have not even told you half of what I saw.” Marco Polo

Blessed are the pure in heart
for they shall see God.
Matt. 5:7

... The knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.
2 Cor. 4:6

Face to face with Christ my Savior
Face to face, what will it be
When with rapture I behold Him
Jesus Christ who died for me?
Face to face! O blissful moment!
Face to face to see and know
Face to face with my Redeemer
Jesus Christ who loves me so.
Grant Tullar

- We will be like Him.

We know that when He appears we shall be like Him, because we shall see Him as He is.
1 Jn. 3:2

As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.” Ps. 17:15

Predestined to be conformed
to the image of His Son...
Rom. 8:29

His name will be on their foreheads. Rev. 22:4

- We will be free!

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away. Rev. 21:4

He will swallow up death forever; and the Lord God will wipe away tears from all faces..
Isa. 25:8

The tears of –

- pain
- loneliness
- hurt
- abandonment
- sorrow
- guilt

GONE, forever and ever!