



Series: Know Your Bible

Lesson: 9. The Truth about Heaven

• **Toward a Correct _____ about Heaven**

○ Most attitudes about heaven come from
_____ thinking.

○ Heaven will be an eternity both free from sin *and* full of
bliss.

Rev. 21:4 – “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.”

*Ps. 16:11 – You will make known to me the path of life;
In Your presence is fullness of joy;
In Your right hand there are pleasures forever.*

○ We should share the same attitude toward death as Paul.

2 Cor. 5:6–10 – *Therefore, being always of good courage, and knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord— ⁷for we walk by faith, not by sight— ⁸we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. ⁹Therefore we also have as our ambition, whether at home or absent, to be pleasing to Him. ¹⁰For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad.*

Phil. 1:21–24 – *For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain. ²²But if I am to live on in the flesh, this will mean fruitful labor for me; and I do not know which to choose. ²³But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better; ²⁴yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake.*

- **What Happens When _____ Die?**
 - There is very little biblical information on the *intermediate state*.
 - Some denominations teach ‘soul sleep.’
 - Only the body sleeps, not the soul (cf. 2 Cor. 5:8; Rev. 14:1–4)

- The RCC teaches _____.
- They teach that justification is an ongoing process completed in the afterlife.
- The Bible teaches we must be perfect to enter heaven (cf. Matt. 5:20, 48), but we can only attain it by having Christ's righteousness imputed to us once and for all (cf. Rom. 4:5; 5:1; 8:1; 2 Cor. 5:21).

- Good theologians differ on what happened when believers died in the Old Testament (Luke 16:22–23?).
- How do we understand Sheol?
- How do we interpret Christ's 'descent'?

- Christians today can be assured that we enter heaven _____ upon death.

*Luke 23:39–43 – One of the criminals who were hanged there was hurling abuse at Him, saying, “Are You not the Christ? Save Yourself and us!”⁴⁰ But the other answered, and rebuking him said, “Do you not even fear God, since you are under the same sentence of condemnation?”⁴¹ And we indeed are suffering justly, for we are receiving what we deserve for our deeds; but this man has done nothing wrong.”⁴² And he was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”⁴³ And He said to him, “Truly I say to you, **today** you shall be with Me in Paradise.” (cf. Mark 15:32)*

- **Our _____ Home**
 - Rev. 21–22 teaches about the new heaven and new earth.
 - This is different from heaven now:
 - An existence of spirit unified with (glorified) body
 - ‘Normal’ life on earth, not in heaven anymore
 - Restoration and escalation of Eden
 - Perfect Communion with the Father (not just Christ)

What Do We Do with These Truths?

1. What wrong attitudes about heaven do you struggle with? How is it helpful to correct them?
2. What’s really at stake when debating the issue of soul sleep? How about purgatory?
3. How should a biblical attitude toward and description of heaven affect our lives right now?

Blanks: Attitude, worldly, Believers, purgatory, immediately, Ultimate,