

YOUR FUTURE IN CHRIST #2

Death is the beginning of a fantastic adventure

In his book titled *Heaven*, Randy Alcorn writes:

A pastor once confessed to me, "Whenever I think about Heaven, it makes me depressed. I'd rather just cease to exist when I die."

"Why?" I asked.

"I can't stand the thought of that endless tedium. To float around in the clouds with nothing to do but strum a harp . . . it's all so terribly boring. Heaven doesn't sound much better than Hell. I'd rather be annihilated than spend eternity in a place like that."

Just a few paragraphs later he writes:

*After reading my novel *Deadline*, which portrays Heaven as a real and exciting place, a woman wrote me, "I've been a Christian since I was five. I'm married to a youth pastor. When I was seven, a teacher at my Christian school told me that when I got to Heaven, I wouldn't know anyone or anything from earth. I was terrified of dying. I was never told any different by anyone. . . . It's been really hard for me to advance in my Christian walk because of this fear of Heaven and eternal life."*

Let those words sink in: "This fear of heaven and eternal life."

I hope this study on *Your Future In Christ* will **increase your longing** for heaven and eternal life. If you are a follower of Jesus, your death is the beginning of a fantastic adventure!

And yes, you will know people in heaven....

In our previous study we learned four essential truths:

I AM CREATED IN THE IMAGE OF GOD

I AM A BODY AND A SOUL

MY BODY WILL DIE, BUT MY SOUL LIVES FOREVER

WHEN MY BODY DIES, MY SOUL GOES TO BE WITH JESUS

But that's just the beginning of your adventure.

At the point you die and your soul goes to be Jesus, you're incomplete; you're a disembodied soul or, as the Apostle Paul describes it, you're "unclothed". You will not be complete until you receive the "building", the new body, God will make for you.¹

When will you get your new body?

The answer to this question is found in 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18.

1 THESSALONIANS 4:13-18 (ESV)

¹³ But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. ¹⁴ For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁵ For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. ¹⁶ For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. ¹⁷ Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord. ¹⁸ Therefore encourage one another with these words.

When will you get your new body?

I WILL GETⁱ MY NEW BODY AT THE RAPTUREⁱⁱ

When the Bride of Christ, the Church, is complete, Jesus will come from heaven to gather His Bride at an event we call the *Rapture*.²

If you die before the *Rapture* event your soul will be with Jesus. When Jesus comes from heaven, He will bring your soul with Him from the 3rd heaven (God's home) to the 1st heaven (earth's atmosphere). At that time, you will be *resurrected*, that is, your soul will be united with a new body created by God for you.

If you are alive on the day of the *Rapture* event, your present, earthly, physical body will be *translated*, that is, your old body will be transformed into your new

¹ 1 Corinthians 5:1-10

² The word *rapture* does not occur in the Bible. It means "to be caught up" from the Latin word *rapio*.

body.³ You will not experience physical death. This is explained in 1 Corinthians 15:50-52.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:50-52 (ESV)

⁵⁰ I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. ⁵¹ Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, ⁵² in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed.

When will you get your new body?

I WILL GET MY NEW BODY AT THE RAPTURE

What will your new body be like?

The answer to this question can be found in 1 Corinthians 15:42-43.

1 CORINTHIANS 15:42-43 (ESV)

⁴² So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. ⁴³ It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

What will your new body be like?

MY NEW BODY WILL BE AWESOMEⁱⁱⁱ

After you get your awesome new body, you'll be caught up to be with Jesus and then you'll return to the 3rd heaven (God's home).

Why will you return to the 3rd heaven (God's home)?

Because you have an important appointment with a very important person!

Remember:

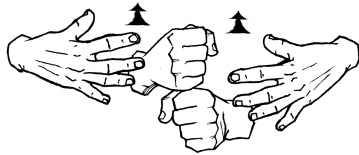
³ To be *translated*, in this context, means to *move from one condition to another*.

DEATH IS THE BEGINNING OF A FANTASTIC ADVENTURE

I WILL GET MY NEW BODY AT THE RAPTURE

MY NEW BODY WILL BE AWESOME

ⁱ ASL sign for *get*:



ⁱⁱ ASL sign for *rapture*:



ⁱⁱⁱ ASL sign for *awesome*:

