

WHAT HAPPENS AFTER WE DIE?

Part 5: Your Questions

"Can you find out the deep things of God?

Can you find out the limit of the Almighty?

It is higher than heaven—what can you do?

Deeper than Sheol—what can you know?" (Zophar the Naamathite, Job 11:7-8)

...therefore, let's not hesitate to say to some questions, "I don't know." There are "secret things" that "belong to the LORD our God, but the things that are revealed belong to us and to our children forever" (Deut 29:29) that we might have hope, and "in this hope we are saved," even as we hope "for what we do not see" and "wait for it with patience" (Rom 8:24-25).

Your questions:

- ◆ What is Paul talking about in 1 Corinthians 15:29?

- ◆ Does praying for someone after they've died make any difference?

- ◆ Are those who have died already in heaven?

- ◆ If what Jesus describes in Luke 16:19-31 is the experience of all who have died, isn't it already clear where people will go for eternity? If that's the case, why "the judgment"?

- ◆ Please discuss “the judgment seat” and “judgment” as mentioned in various places including 2 Corinthians 5:10 and Hebrews 9:27. Christ used the term “day of judgment” several times in Matthew 10-12. Does this occur for each person when and immediately after we die, or will we all be judged at some later time, perhaps together? Seems like when Christ returns and raises the dead in Christ and his obedient followers and takes them to heaven, judgment has already been completed. I’m confused by this. (Growing up, preachers talked about everyone in a big long line waiting to be judged).

- ◆ Who are the 144,000 in Revelation? Will there be only 144,000 in heaven?

- ◆ Can any person be SURE they’re going to heaven? I’ve always believed in the hope of going to heaven and doing what is instructed to get there, but ultimately, to my knowledge, the decision ultimately rests with God’s grace. Is this faulty thinking? Can anyone be absolutely certain?

- ◆ What is Peter talking about when he describes “new heavens and a new earth” in 2 Peter 3:13? Will we “go to” heaven or will heaven come to us?

- ◆ Can souls be permitted into heaven after judgment if they’ve been sentenced to hell? Likewise, can souls be cast out of heaven?

- ◆ Will my 3-year-old son, who I know is already in heaven, know me as his mother when I get there?