

FOREVER AND EVER

**WHEN HEAVEN IS ON YOUR HORIZON**

2 Corinthians 5:1-11

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“If you read history you will find that the Christians who did the most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this.” -  
- C.S. Lewis, *Mere Christianity*

*... having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better. Philippians 1:23*

**Do you know for certain that heaven is your final destination?**

**1. The assurance of heaven changes our perspective on problems.**

*That is why we never give up. Our physical body is becoming older and weaker, but our spirit inside us is made new every day. We have small troubles for a while now, but these troubles are helping us gain an eternal glory. That eternal glory is much greater than our troubles. 2 Corinthians 4:16-17 ERV*

*For we **know** that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. 2 Corinthians 5:1*

A. We know that God is at work.

*Five times I received from the Jews thirty-nine lashes. Three times I was beaten with rods, once I was stoned, three times I was shipwrecked, a night and a day I have spent in the deep. I have been on frequent journeys, in dangers from rivers, dangers from robbers, dangers from my countrymen, dangers from the Gentiles, dangers in the city, dangers in the wilderness, dangers on the sea, dangers among false brethren; I have been in labor and hardship, through many sleepless nights, in hunger and thirst, often without food, in cold and exposure.*

*2 Corinthians 11:24-27*

B. We know that the best is yet to come.

*For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us. Romans 8:18*

**2. The assurance of heaven takes the fear out of death.**

*Since then the children share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise also partook of the same, that through death He might render powerless him who had the power of death, that is, the devil; and might deliver those who through fear of death were subject to slavery all their lives. Hebrews 2:14-15*

A. When a Christian dies, he goes immediately to be with Jesus.

*"Truly I say to you, today you shall be with me in paradise."*

*Luke 23:43*

B. When a Christian dies, he goes to be at home with Jesus.

*... we are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord. 2 Corinthians 5:8*

**3. The assurance of heaven reminds us of the bema judgment.**

*For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that each one may be recompensed for his deeds in the body, according to what he has done, whether good or bad. 2 Corinthians 5:10*

*For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of God. So then each one of us shall give account of himself to God. Romans 14:10, 12*

A. This judgment is only for Christians.

B. This judgment is to determine rewards in heaven.

*For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is Jesus Christ. Now if any man builds upon the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw, each man's work will become evident; for the day will show it, because it is to be revealed with fire; and the fire itself will test the quality of each man's work. If any man's work which he has built upon it remains, he shall receive a reward. If any man's work is burned up, he shall suffer loss; but he himself shall be saved, yet so as through fire. 1 Corinthians 3:11-15*

**Are you living with heaven on your horizon?**