

Knowing Each Other in Heaven

Introduction

- 1. We spend a lifetime with our family and dear loved ones.**
- 2. For Christians, much time is spent around other Christians who may be family members and dear brothers and sisters in Christ.**
- 3. Many Christians wonder if we will know each other when we get to heaven.**
- 4. In our study this morning, we will look at what the Bible says about whether we will know each other in heaven.**
- 5. There are some very convincing principles of divine truth regarding the question of “will we know each other in heaven?”**

We Will Be Like the Lord

- 1. According to 1 John 3:2, we will be like the Lord, seeing Him even as He is.**
 - A. We shall know Him, and be knowable.**

1 John 3:2 Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, **we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.**

- 1) Though incomplete in our knowledge of the afterlife (not yet revealed what we shall be), John did affirm our confidence in being like the Lord.**

2. **When the resurrection occurs, our bodies (dead or alive) will be changed.**
1 Corinthians 15:50-54
 - A. **It follows, that the same spiritual state will remain in the judgment and the heavenly state.**

David's Statement

1. **Notice what David said concerning his son who died.**

2 Samuel 12:23 But now he is dead; why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? **I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me."**

- A. **David's statement becomes meaningless without the understanding that we shall know each other in heaven. Knowing that he would see his son again brought comfort.**

Description of the Kingdom

1. **Let us take note of Jesus' description of the kingdom in its temporal and heavenly phase.**
Matthew 8:11-12
 - A. **This implies a personal recognition in heaven. The punishment of the wicked will be cast into outer darkness.**
 - B. **The blessedness enjoyed in the kingdom with saints like Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob – who were not part of the kingdom of Christ when they walked on earth.**
 - 1) **It is an extension of this enjoyment to the eternal kingdom of heaven that is implied in this passage.**

Recognizing Others

1. **We can see from the description in Luke 16 that individuals retain their identity and power to recognize others.**
 - A. **Their consciousness and mental powers can be clearly seen in this passage of scripture.**

Luke 16:19-31

 - 1) **He obviously recognized Abraham when he called him by name.**
2. **Jesus' teaching about the resurrection in Matthew 22 involves the survival of individual personality.**

Matthew 22:31-32 But concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was spoken to you by God, saying, 'I AM THE GOD OF ABRAHAM, THE GOD OF ISAAC, AND THE GOD OF JACOB' ? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

- A. **This shows personal identity and personal recognition.**
 - 1) **Long after their physical deaths, God continued to be the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**
- B. **This provides a strong basis for believing that we shall know each other in heaven – this is why we need to make sure we get there!**

Eternal Happiness is Not Dependent on Who is Present or Absent

- 1. The chief objection raised to what has been discussed in this lesson is based on emotion – not a discussion of Bible passages.**
 - A. Some say “If we reach heaven only to discover that our loved ones are not present, we could not experience happiness, knowing that they are lost.”**
 - 1) “Therefore, there must be no personal recognition in heaven.”**
- 2. Why would eternal happiness in the Lord depend on who is present or absent?**
 - A. We must recognize that we do not love those relatives any more than God does – after all, every soul is God given.**
- 3. Appreciating God’s eternal plan will help us be content in letting Him work out the details of that plan.**
 - A. We should never limit our concept of heavenly joy based on present experiences.**
 - 1) We still enjoy life even when we now know that loved ones are living their lives apart from God.**
 - 2) Heaven is a place without sorrow or sighing. God will take care of this matter in heaven, when our joys exceed all that we have known on this earth.**

Revelation 21:4 And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain, for the former things have passed away."

Conclusion

1. **There is great comfort in the assurance of the scriptures concerning whether we will know one another in heaven.**
 - A. **God has given us this comfort for the soul.**

2. **Listen to Paul's comforting words the Thessalonian brethren:**
1 Thessalonians 4:13-18
 - A. **These words incorporate the idea of personal recognition:**
 - 1) **in the reunion that is affirmed.**
 - 2) **in the joy that will occur at such a time.**
 - 3) **in the comfort that is made possible.**

3. **May we always find comfort for our soul in the words of God.**

