

Seven Reasons to Keep Looking Up!

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Sometimes we can become discouraged and filled with anxiety when we experience personal trials and changes in life. We wonder if we are going to pull out of an illness or a time of suffering. We wonder if this is it! We wonder about our job security and our money situation – will it hold out? We look at our circumstances which are often accompanied with sickness, sorrow, and sadness and we can become very distraught. Also, as we see the events of the world and our own country

rapidly changing, moving in a godless direction, developing more of a socialistic outlook, and moving away from our republic and our historic roots, we can become shaken and discouraged. We are beginning to lose the America we once knew!

Difficult days are probably ahead where we will need to deal with hyperinflation, tough economic times, and new challenges that we may have never faced before. Everything seems to be spiraling in a downward direction. Our health, our country, and the difficulties we are facing in life can steal away our hope if we keep centering our attention upon them. There are many things in life that can become what I call “hope stealers” The truth is this, there are many things that can drag us down and keep us from looking up with real hope and expectancy. However, as Christians, we must remember that our hope is in God and we have a lot of things to look forward to. We are people of hope! When God saved us, hope was built into our lives. God brought hope into our hearts and we must be careful that we do not put out the flame.

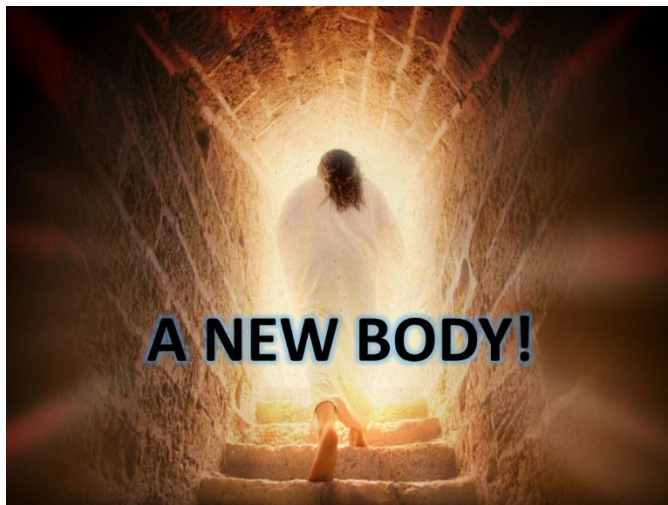
We should keep looking beyond the difficult situations we might be facing in our personal lives, country, and world. The Biblical teaching regarding our hope should keep us from being overcome and spiritually defeated by all the changing events that surround us and those that we are facing in our own personal lives. God does not want us to lose our hope and expectancy that a brighter and better day is coming. Our lives must be built around the hope we have in God and the future instead of the present. Our outlook must be built upon the uplook!

In this devotional study, I would like to provide some hope for all of God's saints as we reflect specifically on the hope we have in God's promises about the future. God provides hope for us today and bright hope for tomorrow! This study is focusing on the hope we have as we peer into the future. As we remember what lies ahead, as we look at the things God has prepared for us, this should help us to remain focused and not become discouraged or downcast in our spirit, as we face many challenges and pass through changes which are occurring around us and even in us. Our future destiny and the many blessings that await us, as believers, should remind us to keep looking up with great expectancy, hope, anticipation, joy, and gladness!

God's people should keep looking up since the best is yet to come.

There are seven reasons why we should keep looking up.

1. We will receive a new body someday.



1 Corinthians 15:52

"In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye (*the speed of the Rapture*), at the last trump (*the sound of the Rapture*): for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we (the living) shall be changed" (*the saint's transformation at the Rapture*).

Beloved, we will not always experience pain and difficulty in our present earthly bodies. A better day is coming. A bright hope and future exist for believers in Christ. We are going to get a newly redeemed body that will last for eternity! The change will take place instantly, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. The last trumpet here does not mean the end of the world, or even the last trumpet mentioned in the book of Revelation. Rather, it refers to the last trumpet note in a series of trumpet sounds that will be heard when Christ comes in the air for His saints (1 Thess. 4:16).

When the final trumpet note sounds, the dead will be raised incorruptible and transformed, and we who are still living will also be changed and be instantaneously transformed. Changed in a moment! Yes, we will sing and shout the victory! What a tremendous and momentous event this will be when the earth and sea will yield up the bodies of all those who have died through the centuries which have trusted in Christ as their Savior. It is almost impossible for the human mind to take in the magnitude of such an event, yet the humble believer can accept it by faith.

“Someday, the King of glory,
Will part the clouds praise His name
Some day all pain and sorrow will erase
Some day I’ll see my Savior face to face
Some day He’s coming back for me.”

1 Corinthians 15:53-55 further explains this glorious moment of transformation: “For this corruptible (body) must put on incorruption, and this mortal (body) *must* put on immortality (*the transformation of the redeemed*). So when this corruptible (body) shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal (body) shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory. O death, where *is* thy sting? O grave, where *is* thy victory?” (*the saying of the redeemed*).

C. H. Mackintosh speaks of Christ’s resurrection power:

“What are death, the grave, and decomposition in the presence of such power as this? Millions that have been mouldering (decaying) in the dust for thousands of years shall spring up in a moment into life, immortality and eternal glory, at the voice of that blessed One.”

Yes, someday there will be no more death or suffering or any limitations that relate to our present earthly bodies, which are moving toward the grave. Someday we will experience a glorious transformation. Our old bodies will be made completely new and eternal. They will be redeemed from the effects of sin and our glorified bodies will be filled with great magnificence, splendor, and glory.

This is one good reason why we should keep looking up! We are getting a new immortal body someday that will never experience disease, death, and decay! This is a wonderful, blessed hope!

Titus 2:13 speaks of this tremendous hope:

“Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.”

We can look forward to Christ’s return and the transformation of our bodies with great expectancy. It should be a daily and very practical hope in our hearts and lives. We can face today and tomorrow knowing that Jesus could return at any moment and release us from all the struggles and hardships that are related to our personal lives on earth.

Whether we are raised or still alive, we will be changed or transformed and receive an eternal body. From this point on we can be sure that there will be no more Covid 19, cancer, backaches, bifocals, trifocals, pacemakers, heart medications, eyeglasses, pills, paralysis, no more hip and knee replacements, no more need for blue cross and blue shield insurance, or no more need for brill-cream and old-age enhancements! We will get a new body and a new set of hair that will never fall out or fade away!

How to Know You’re Getting Older:

- Everything hurts! and what doesn’t hurt, doesn’t work!
- You feel like the night before, and you haven’t been anywhere!
- You sit in a rocking chair and you can’t get it going!
- Your knees buckle and your belt won’t!
- The little gray-haired lady you help across the street is your wife!
- You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there!

We sometimes receive letters or emails from cancer patients who have ordered the cancer booklets. They tell us of their experiences with cancer and the hope they have in the Lord Jesus Christ. It’s wonderful to realize that someday cancer will be eradicated. When we get our new body and enter the Eternal State there will be no more cancer. The doctrine of the believer’s glorious destiny and future, which includes our transformed and glorified body, should help us face our present difficulties and situations in life.

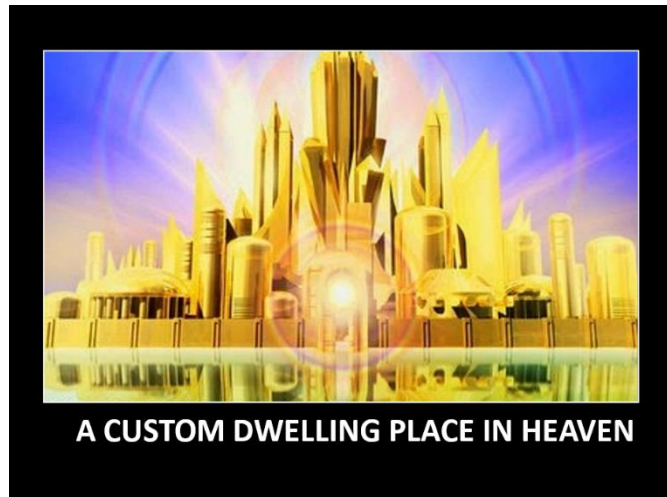
“In only a moment, in a twinkling of an eye.
At the sound of the trumpet, we will see Him come.
In only a moment, we’ll behold Him in the sky.
And the Lord Himself, will quickly take us home.

We shall all be changed,
Caught up to heaven, In a cloud of glory;
We shall all be changed, transformed in victory,
Death where is thy sting?
God conquered death and hell
We shall all be changed, we shall all be changed.”

Keep looking up! The best is yet to come! Our redemption draweith nigh! We are going to get a brand-new body! The doctrine of the believer’s glorious destiny and future should help us face our present difficulties and trials in life. Our future hope gives us a transitory perspective on the present trials and sufferings we are passing through (Rom. 8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17). We are reminded that they will not last forever. Better days are ahead!

2. We will get a custom dwelling place someday.

Jesus said in John 14:1-2:
“Let not your heart be troubled:
(*don’t fear*) ye believe in God,
believe also in me (*deity of Christ*).
In my Father's house are many
mansions (*dwelling places*): if *it*
were not so, I would have told you.
I go to prepare a place for you.”



This is God’s promise to us! “Let not your heart be troubled.” Sean Hannity of Fox News uses this phrase, “Let not your heart be troubled,” but I don’t think he really understands what it means. In this passage, the disciples were troubled about Christ going away and not seeing Him again. But Christ reassures them of His promised return for His disciples and children someday. This will be the time when they are reunited with Him in the Father’s House.

Jesus is essentially saying, “Be calm! Don’t be afraid. Don’t be troubled about no longer seeing me. I’m coming back for you! I’ll be back! I am coming to take you to live with me in a special place within Heaven!” This promise should calm our souls

and still our hearts. Jesus is coming back for me personally. Jesus is going to break through the blue and take us (His Church) home to Heaven where we will live with Him. We are going to have a specially prepared place for us in Heaven since Jesus said, "I go to prepare a place for you." The Lord is going to return and take us to our blessed heavenly home. At this point, we will live with Him eternally and be delivered from the hardships of life forever.

Let not your heart be troubled! What is troubling you today? What has been pulling you down and causing you to lose hope?

"Down in the dumps I'll never go
For this is where the devil keeps us low."

This is easy to say, but if we are not careful, we can become troubled and distraught about many things in life. However, the return of Christ and our new destiny with Christ within the heavenly city should produce a calming effect upon our souls. It should still our souls and bring great hope to our hearts as we anticipate the glorious return of Christ and the future glory we have with the Lord in the place He has prepared for us.

Jesus taught, "In my Father's house are many mansions." In other words, there is plenty of room within the city for all God's redeemed people! Many years ago, I was walking through the fancy Grand Plaza Hotel in Grand Rapids Michigan. It was a snowy night and some of us college students decided to go into the lobby of this motel, look around, and act like we were guests there! This hotel bragged about the many rooms which they had available for people. Now let me brag a little bit. I can assure each one of us today that God's saints are going to a grand place in the sky (a heavenly city) and there are many mansions (dwelling places) in this city.

I was looking up in the sky the other day and was thinking about the greatness, vastness, and glory of the place that Jesus has prepared for me in the heavenly Jerusalem and on that heavenly boulevard! Heaven is for real. It's a real place where I will live for all eternity! Jesus has prepared a place for us in Heaven and we are going there someday. We can bank on it! "I go to prepare a place for you." Remember: Heaven is a prepared place for a prepared people! The Lord went back to Heaven to prepare this specific place for you and me who are His children. We

do not know very much about this place other than what Revelation chapters 21-22 reveal, but we do know that provision is being made for every child of God.

1 Peter 1:3-4 envisions our total inheritance that we will someday receive as Peter looks ahead to the final aspect of our salvation: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope (*the promise of hope*) by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead (*the reason for hope*), To an inheritance (*the description of our hope*) incorruptible (unchanging), and undefiled (unblemished), and that fadeth not away (unending), reserved in heaven for you” (unharmd). In other words, it will be there when we get there!

A godly, elderly lady said to me the other day:

“When you are at my funeral, don’t look down at my body in the coffin, look up, since that is where I am going to be!”

Yes, we will someday get a new personal dwelling place in Heaven. This is another good reason why we should keep looking up!!

“I'm satisfied with just a cottage below
A little silver and a little gold,
But in that city where the ransomed will shine
I want a gold one that's silver lined.
I've got a mansion just over the hilltop
In that bright land where we'll never grow old,
And some day yonder we will never more wander
But walk on streets that are purest gold.”

Jesus goes on to say in John 14:3:

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, *there* ye may be also.”

As surely as Jesus would go away, He promised that He would come again. But we also can be reassured that Jesus Christ desires to have His own children live with Him for all eternity (“that where I am, there ye may be also”). By the way, this is what makes Heaven - Heaven! It is the presence of Christ. Paul spoke about how he wanted “to depart, and be with Christ” which is far better” (Phil. 1:23). Someday we will be with the One who loved us and gave Himself for us (Gal. 2:20) and we

will experience the beauty and grandeur of the place that Jesus has prepared for us in Glory! Christ's blood-bought throng will be taken home to Heaven!

“When the trumpet of the Lord shall sound
And time shall be no more
And the morning breaks eternal bright and fair.
When the saved of earth shall gather
Over on the other shore
When the roll is called up yonder,
I'll be there.”

Keep Looking up! The best is yet to come! Better days are ahead!

3. We will be like Jesus Christ someday.



1 John 3:2

“Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.”

There are three teachings in this verse.

a. **The promise** – “now we are the sons of God”

The fact that we are the sons or children of God (John 1:12) gives us the guarantee of future glory (Eph. 1:14). What we are right now (God's children) will be very evident when we are made into the exact likeness of Jesus Christ.

b. **The problem** - “It doth not yet appear what we shall be”

Have you looked in the mirror lately? We are not getting any younger. Did you see the ad for that cream which makes the claim “Ten years Younger!” Many are trying to tell you that they can turn back the clock. Who are we kidding? However, the problem is not only with our physical breakdown, but also our moral imperfections. We must come face to face with the reality that we are still sinners in need of

transformation. Not one of us have arrived! We are still growing into Christlikeness (2 Cor. 3:18). We are not what we used to be, but we are still sinners, sinners saved by grace!

c. **The pledge** – “we shall be like him”

This does not mean that we will physically look like Jesus in the future. Each of us will have our own distinct features and will be recognizable when we receive our glorified bodies (1 Thess. 2:19; 4:16-17). The Bible does not teach that everyone will be a Jesus “look alike” when we get our new bodies. What the Bible is conveying here is that all of God’s saints will receive a body like Christ which is free from pain, death, and sin. Like Christ, we will possess a painless, deathless, and sinless body! John seems to be primarily focusing on the point that in the coming day (the Rapture) we will possess a glorified body that will be morally like Jesus Christ. The Bible repeatedly talks about our moral transformation. Moral purity is what John is reflecting on - the glory of possessing Christlikeness in a new, redemptive body released from all the effects of sin (Rom. 8:30).

1 John 3:3

“And every man that hath this hope in him (*referring to seeing and being like Christ*) purifieth himself (*in our present lives*), even as he is pure” (*sinless and morally clean*).

In other words, when we consider our future moral perfection, our perfect Christlikeness that we will receive someday in a glorified body, it should cause each one of us to strive to live in a pure fashion. We should in some sense pursue purity today and, in some measure, live out and resemble Christ’s purity as we move toward moral perfection and our day of coronation.

William MacDonald remarks in this way:

“It has long been recognized by Christians that the hope of the imminent return of Christ has a sanctifying influence in the life of the believer. He does not want to be doing anything that he would not want to be doing when Christ returns.”

Someday we will be free from the possibility of defilement and sin. Sin will no longer have any part or control over our lives. Think of it. We will never sin again! We will never think of evil, do evil, or contemplate transgressing against God’s will. We will be like Jesus!

Romans 8:18 gives a similar promise or moral transformation:

“For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us.”

Paul is saying that what we pass through in this life cannot be compared to the great blessings that await us beyond this present life. We will not only experience a new body, a new home, and a new eternal day, we will also experience the moral perfection of being like Jesus Christ. What happens “in us” is most important of all! We will be morally and ethically changed into the perfection of Christ. This means that sin will no longer haunt and hound our lives. We will truly be free from the problem of pain, suffering, and even sin.

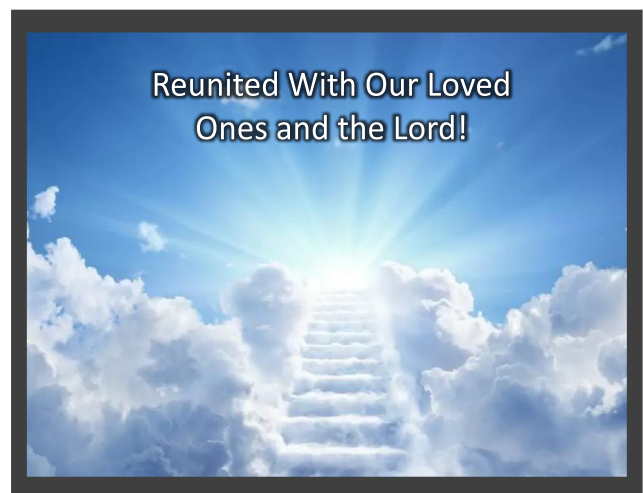
When will this marvelous transformation be accomplished? The answer is when we look upon Christ for the first time, we will know that we have been transformed forever. The Bible states: “when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” In other words, when Jesus returns and we see Him, we will know in an instant that we have been morally transformed and become like Jesus. It will only take one glimpse of His dear face and all sorrow and sin will be erased from our lives forever. Think of it, the moment we see Jesus, we will know that we are like Jesus! We will be changed in a moment and be given a painless, deathless, and sinless body. What a glorious day this will be!

Jesus is coming again! We are going to be like Him someday. We will see Him someday! We will live with Him forever and forever! This is another good reason why we should keep looking up!! The best is yet to come!

4. We will be reunited with our loved ones and the Lord someday.

1 Thessalonians 4:16-17

“For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven (*the return called the Rapture*) with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God (*the resplendent sounds of the Rapture*): and the dead in Christ shall rise first (*the resurrection or the Rapture*): Then we



which are alive *and* remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord” (*the reunion of the Rapture*).

When Jesus returns, we are once again going to be reunited with our saved, born again loved ones in Christ, who have gone on before us! Think of it! Our grandpa, grandma, mother, father, sister, brother, cousin, uncle, aunt, our child, we will meet them in the air. Listen folks, when Jesus returns and comes back, there is going to be a grand reunion in the air and we will enjoy the company of our loves ones for eternity. Better days are coming! Keep looking up! Keep your eye to the sky!

“There is going to be a meeting in the air
In the sweet sweet bye and bye.
I am going to meet you, meet you over there
In that home beyond the sky.
Such singing you will hear—never heard by mortal ear
‘Twill be glorious I do declare.
And God’s own son will be the leading one
At the meeting in the air!”

Someone said:

“When you know where someone has gone, you have not really lost them!”

Our saved loved ones have simply gone away for a time. We will see them again. Perhaps today! Perhaps today Jesus will come back, and we will be reunited with our saved loved ones again.

William Graham Scroggie once remarked:

“If I knew that never again would I see or recognize that beloved one with whom I spent more than thirty-nine years here on earth, my anticipation of heaven would much abate. To say that we will be with Christ and that will be enough, is to claim that there we shall be without the social instincts and affection which mean so much to us here.”

A Christian man knew he was going to die. At his office, before he left the office for the final time, he put up a sign for his Christian employees, which read: “Gone for a while, Be back soon!” It really is true! Our loved ones are coming back with Jesus

("them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him" - 1 Thess. 4:14). Yes, we will meet them in the sky in one, great, happy reunion and then be transported back to Glory to enjoy their fellowship eternally. This will take place at the Rapture.

I will be looking for many people when I get Heaven! Can you even imagine how wonderful it will be when we actually see our loved ones again! I have witnessed many tears and broken hearts over the years. How can we go on when our heart is breaking in two? How can we go on when we have lost the person that is dearest to our hearts? The answer lies in looking up! We must keep our eyes on the future and our reunion with our loved ones at the glorious event of the Rapture.

"Friends will be there I have loved long ago;
Joy like a river around me will flow;
Yet just a smile from my Savior I know,
Will thro' the ages be glory for me!"

I remember contacting a preacher who had a special ministry and home for troubled children. He was contemplating coming to the church so he could share his ministry. But when I was talking to him, I discovered that he had just lost his wife the night before. We talked for a while and shared the comfort and hope we have as God's people of seeing one another again. The Bible says we should "sorrow not, even as others which have no hope" (1 Thess. 4:13). This is because as believers we have the hope of seeing our saved loved ones again!

"Beyond the Sunset,
O glad reunion,
With our dear loved ones
Who've gone before;
In that fair homeland
We'll know no parting,
Beyond the sunset for evermore!"

Of course, as wonderful as it will be to see our loved ones in Christ, it will be even more wonderful to see Jesus for the very first time. The Bible says that we will also "meet the Lord in the air" (1 Thess. 4:17). This will be the most thrilling moment of all! Imagine seeing Jesus for the very first time. When we see our Savior (Phil. 3:20)

our hearts will melt within us and we will experience unspeakable joy and gratitude. John says, “we shall see him as he is” (1 John 3:2).



“What a day that will be,
When my Jesus I shall see,
And I look upon His face,
The One who saved me by His grace;
When He takes me by the hand,
And leads me through the Promised Land,
What a day, glorious day that will be.”

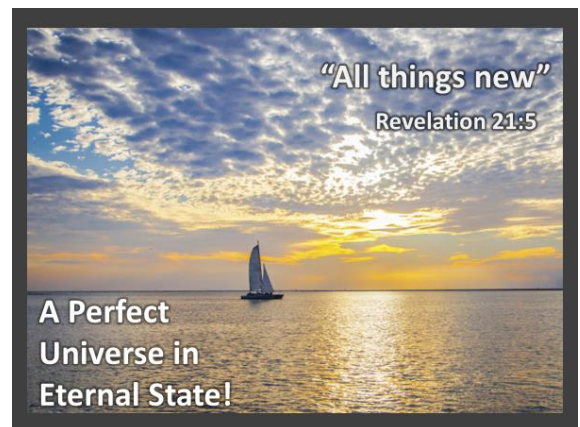
“And they shall see his face” (Rev. 22:4).

“Face to face with Christ, my Savior,
Face to face- what will it be
When with rapture I behold him,
Jesus Christ who died for me?
Face to face I shall behold him,
Far beyond the starry sky;
Face to face in all his glory,
I shall see him by and by.”

Keep looking up! The best is yet to come! We are going to see our loved ones, but most of all, we are going to see Jesus!

5. We are going to live in a perfect universe someday (Eternal State).

In case you have not noticed, this is not a perfect world! Today we have problems all over the earth – war, famine, death, drugs, communism, upheavals of every kind. But there is coming a day when the world and entire universe will be perfect. We are going to live in a perfect heavenly and earthly world someday! Both Heaven and the earth will in some sense merge together for the Eternal State.



Revelation 21:1-3 speaks of the great merging between Heaven and Earth:

“And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away; and there was no more sea. And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband. And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God *is* with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them, *and be* their God.”

My friend, if you are saved, you will someday live in a perfect universe! It will be an eternity where everything will be made right, and all will be well. We will never get the New World Order until the Eternal State arrives. They are talking about “the great reset” today but this will not occur until God makes everything new.

Revelation 21:4-5 looks ahead to the Eternal State:

“And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for these words are true and faithful.”

During the Eternal State, there will be no more sin, tears, death, sorrow, crying, or pain. All the former things of this life which are associated with our mortal bodies will be gone forever. All the wrongs will be made right. All the evil will be banished and forgotten.

Revelation 21:27 also gives this description of eternity:

“And there shall in no wise enter into it any thing that defileth, neither *whatsoever* worketh abomination, or *maketh* a lie: but they which are written in the Lamb's book of life.”

The Bible declares that “the former things are passed away” (Rev. 21:4). This means that all the frailties, heartaches, pains, tears, and death which was associated with our present lives on earth will never touch us again! A time of eternal bliss awaits God’s saints. It’s a time when all evil will be thwarted, including communism, and sorrow will be erased forever.

Endless delight and joy will be experienced in the coming eternal day since “all things will be new!” (Rev. 21:5). This means that we will in one sense be eternally

refreshed in every area of our life (physically, mentally, emotionally, morally, relationally). We are going to be given a fresh and eternal start. The fact that “all things will be new” would also mean we will see everything from God’s perspective! We will rest in God’s perfect justice and righteousness throughout eternity.

Many have asked if we will be filled with sorrow over those suffering in the Lake of Fire. No, since everything will be new. We will have God’s perspective on these things. Furthermore, all the terrible things and tough times that we have experienced in this life will no longer haunt us! Our existence in the Eternal State will not be marred by bad memories of the old earth. In fact, our existence in eternity will be much different from what we are used to experiencing in this old world. The curse that came with sin will be abolished forever. Sin and its effects will no longer plague God’s perfect universe in “the coming of the day of God” (2 Pet. 3:12) – God’s eternal day!

Revelation 22:3

“And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him.”

We can hardly imagine a world and universe without pain or sorrow, but that’s what God promises—a reality beyond imagination! No more sin, no more curse, no more death, no more good-byes—all because of Jesus’ sacrifice on the cross. In the Eternal State, God’s perfect plan will be brought to a glorious realization, and redeemed mankind will accomplish his chief end which is “to glorify God and to enjoy him forever.”

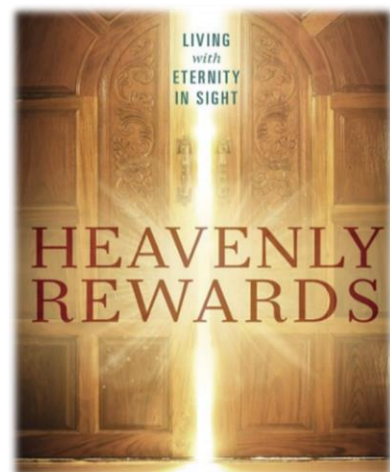
We need to keep our eyes on the eternal and not the present! Keep Looking up!
The best is yet to come!

6. We will receive our reward someday.

Revelation 22:12

“And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward *is* with me, to give every man according as his work shall be.”

Receiving reward when Jesus returns for His church is an incentive to live a sanctified life and keep serving the Lord faithfully and with all our hearts (2 Tim. 4:7-



8). We will be rewarded someday for the way we have lived for the Lord and served Him (2 Cor. 5:10). Payday is coming! The wrongs will be made right and we will receive eternal reward and recognition for the way we have lived out our lives for Jesus Christ. We will be eternally rewarded for our spiritual disciplines, Christian virtues, and overall service for the Lord. This is why we need to be steadfast and unmovable, always abound in God's work (1 Cor. 15:58).

Beloved, it will be worth it all, when we see Jesus! Keep looking up! Keep your eyes on the Lord. Keep looking beyond this old world and into the next world and the promise of reward. A better day is coming!

Revelation 14:13 declares:

"And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them."

This means that what we do for Christ will come back to us! Our reward for serving Jesus and living for Him will not be forgotten. The works we do for the Lord on this earth will result in reward throughout eternity. Our service for God will follow us which means we will experience eternal reward for the way we have lived out our lives for Jesus Christ.

I recall playing softball on the field at GRSBM (Grand Rapids School of the Bible and Music). The ball was hit and suddenly a Great Dane came running out after the ball and jumped on the person who grabbed the ball. The left fielder was smothered by a Great Dane! Like this giant dog that followed the ball, so our works will follow us on to Glory. As God's saints, we will be rewarded for the things that we have done for the Lord. This is why we need to be living and serving Jesus Christ to the end of our days and time on earth.

Hebrews 6:10

"For God is not unrighteous to forget your work and labour of love, which ye have shewed toward his name, in that ye have ministered to the saints, and do minister."

John Wesley said:

"Do all the good you can, by all the means you can, in all the ways you can, in all the places you can, at all the times you can, to all the people you can, as long as ever you can."

The point is that we should actively serve the Lord in every way and any way we can. Our goal should be to die with our boots on! We sometimes say, "I'll wait until tomorrow to do this for the Lord." Dear friend, tomorrow may never come for us. Jesus may come today! You might say, "I'll give that large chunk of money to the church later on. I want to think about it more and hang on to it a little longer." Then what happens? Well, the Lord decides to take us home, the money is left in the earthly bank and you never did get to invest it in the heavenly bank account. We need to maintain our loyalty and service to the Lord knowing that there is coming a day of reckoning and reward (1 Cor. 3:12-15). Our future reward provides us with the motivation to stay committed to living for Jesus Christ.

Paul promised in 2 Timothy 4:8:

"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Keep Looking up! The best is yet to come! Payday is coming!

7. We will sing and worship in the heavenly choir someday.



A Christian lady once said to me that she does not like choirs. Well, she had better start liking them and getting used to them since she will be singing in one of them throughout eternity! In Heaven and throughout the eternal ages of time, we will take part in spectacular worship. People often ask me what we are going to do in Heaven and throughout eternity. Well, we will not only serve God (Rev.

22:3) but sing to God and worship Him. Worship is going to be one of the most thrilling things that we will do. It will be a central part of our heavenly life and eternal existence as God's saints.

a. Our worship will center on God as the Creator.

Revelation 4:9-11

“And when those beasts give glory and honour and thanks to him that sat on the throne, who liveth for ever and ever, The four and twenty elders fall down before him that sat on the throne, and worship him that liveth for ever and ever, and cast their crowns before the throne, saying, Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things (not evolved all things!), and for thy pleasure they are and were created.”

I was sitting on a lawn chair down in Florida and was listening to the birds and bugs while looking at the beautiful scenery in a nearby wooded area. God is beautiful in His eternal being and the beauty of the created earth and nature all around us reminds us of our great God and Creator.

b. Our worship will center on God as the Savior.

Revelation 5:11-12

“And I beheld, and I heard the voice of many angels round about the throne and the beasts and the elders: and the number of them was ten thousand times ten thousand, and thousands of thousands; Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.”

My first response after reading this verse was this: When we all get to Heaven what a day of rejoicing it will be! And what will we be rejoicing about? The blood of Jesus Christ! Heaven knows the value of the blood of Christ! We will sing throughout eternity about His precious blood that was shed upon the cross of Calvary.

Our Christian college used to have Christian concerts at Calvary Udenominational Church in Grand Rapids Michigan. We used to sing the closing of the Messiah at our annual Christmas concerts. On the final stanza people would stand up as we ended with the grand finale of this song. And then, just when we finished, one brother who was singing beside me yelled out, “Praise the Lord, Praise the Lord!” Dear Christian friend, we have something to praise the Lord about and we will praise Him forever inside the gates of Heaven!

People today talk about worship teams! Someone once asked me if we have a worship team in our church. I said, “Yes, we are all part of the worship team.” And this is the way it will be in Heaven!

Keep Looking up! The best is yet to come! We should remain focused on the future and keep reminding ourselves of the tremendous heavenly and eternal blessings that await us. Once again, the future helps us to deal with the present. The future will help us as God's children to cultivate hope, joy, calmness, and encouragement within our hearts. The doctrine of the believer's glorious destiny and future hope should help each one of us to face our present difficulties and trails in life with new perspective. We can view everything from an eternal perspective and know that what is occurring in our life today is transitory. As we age, pass through difficult time, and find ourselves discouraged, we must keep looking up! There is light at the end of the tunnel. There is great eternal hope for each believer in Christ.

2 Corinthians 4:17

"For our light affliction (when compared to our glorious future), which is but for a moment (when compared to our eternal destiny), worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory" (when compared to our present trials).

Keeping our hearts fixed on the future will help us see how momentary and small ("light") our present sufferings are in comparison to what lies beyond. Of course, we know our trials can be very challenging and difficult to pass through in this life. But we need to keep our eyes on the future since this can help us to deal with the present. Paul teaches that all of our trials and hardships are very insignificant and fading when compared to the glorious destiny and future inheritance that awaits us! Looking ahead helps us deal with our present hardships. It gives us a right perspective, hope, and spiritual outlook on the trials and tests of life that we are passing through.

Beloved, we are on the winning team! We are getting a new body that is painless, timeless, deathless, and sinless. We are going to Heaven and we will one day live in a perfect universe. We are going to dwell in the place Christ has prepared for us in the great heavenly city. We are going to be morally like Jesus someday and live with Him forever. We are going to meet our saved loved ones and the Lord Jesus Christ at the Rapture. We are going to be rewarded for the things that we have done for the Lord. We are going to worship with the great heavenly choir and throng for all eternity. Yes, the best is yet to come! Keep looking up! Better days are ahead! God can give you strength for today and bright hope for tomorrow! Let Him strengthen your heart and give you a newfound sense of hope and endurance as you pass through life's trials (James 1:3).

If we keep looking up instead of looking around at our circumstances, we will not be overcome by debilitating fear, discouragement, and despair. The future will breed hope, joy, and encouragement in our hearts! Remember that God does not want us to look down or behind us; He wants us to look up!

Jesus said in Luke 21:28:

“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh.”



The application of this verse to our lives is very wonderful. When things get bad, we can know they will get better! God is still on the throne! He is still in charge and will someday bring His children into their great spiritual and eternal blessings. Of course, as far as the Church is concerned, we enter our spiritual blessings at the event called the

Rapture. Christ’s return for His beloved Bride will set in motion a chain of events that will change each one of our lives forever.

“This could be the dawning of that grand and glorious day,
When the face of Jesus we behold!
Dreams and hopes of all the ages are awaiting His returning,
And this could be the dawning of that day!”

The doctrine of future things helps us to deal with our struggles and tribulations that we are facing today. A hope that is rooted in the future allows us to keep our present sufferings in proper perspective for it reminds us of the great days and blessings that lie ahead, providing us with a blessed hope, comfort, and spiritual outlook on life.

1 Peter 1:13 says:

“Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.”

In other words, we should not allow our present trials to steal away our future hope. Hang in there, Christian friend, “lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees” (Heb. 12:12) for the best is yet to come! There is a great eternal day of resplendent glory that awaits each one of us!

“We are often tossed and driv’n
On the restless sea of time,
Somber skies and howling tempests
Oft succeed a bright sunshine,
In that land of perfect day,
When the mists have rolled away,
We will understand it better by and by.
By and by when the morning comes,
All the saints of God are gathered home,
We’ll tell the story how we’ve overcome:
For we’ll understand it better by and by.”

Beloved, the morning will come! The time will come when we enter into all the spiritual and physical blessings God has prepared for us. What lies ahead is something so grand and wonderful that it should take our breath away. Amazing stuff is coming! Keep your present trials in perspective. Jesus will come! The morning will come! And joy comes in the morning (Ps. 30:5). When the morning comes there will be no more sorrow, no more sadness, no more sin and suffering, no more sickness, no more separations. “One glimpse of His dear face all sorrows will erase!” Joy cometh in the morning!

“The Christ I love, is coming soon,
It maybe morning night or noon.
My lamps are lit I’ll watch and pray
It maybe today, It maybe today.”

One of the early explorers of South Africa’s ocean waters, Bartolomeu Dias, went around a cape on a stormy sea. His ship was threatened by the waves and may very well have broken in pieces. For this reason, he called the place the “Cape of Storms.” But another explorer, who came later, changed the name to the “Cape of Good Hope,” for he saw ahead of him the jewels and treasures of India.

Today our lives are filled with many storms. We often experience various trials and tribulations associated with the here and now. We are storm-tossed saints. But if we can see the glorious redemption, destiny, and eternity that lies ahead of us, we can live in the “Cape of Good Hope” and look forward to all the future treasures that await us. As God’s people, we need to keep looking up, since the best is yet to come!

