

Anticipate
Your Future Hope,
Your Eternal Home,
Your Daily Reality

HEAVEN

AWAITS

MICHAEL
YOUSSEF

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Your Daily Reality**



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Heaven Awaits: Anticipate Your Future Hope, Your Eternal Home, Your Daily Reality

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Introduction

INVESTING IN ETERNITY

LIKE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE from around the world, I came to America to discover a new life. Nearly fifty years later, I clearly remember the hours my wife, Elizabeth, and I spent preparing to move to the US. We pored over books and magazines, searching out every detail we could find about this nation we would soon call home.

The hours we spent learning about America were well-invested. Soon after we stepped off the plane in Los Angeles, we discovered how different the US is from any other place we had lived before. We found ourselves dealing with a new currency, a new climate, new forms of housing and transportation, a new education system, and most of all, new political freedoms. Every experience was fresh, surprising, and exciting.

The way Elizabeth and I prepared ourselves for coming to America is the way all Christians should prepare for going to Heaven. We should look forward to Heaven with excitement and anticipation. We should want to read everything and learn everything we can about our future eternal home.

Yet I find that few Christians make any serious preparations for Heaven. We spend most of our time planning our next vacation or preparing for retirement. We seldom give any thought to eternity.

Our earthly business can often seem so pressing that we tell ourselves, “I really don’t have any time to think about Heaven today. Maybe tomorrow or next week.” But our eternal future is one of the most foundational truths of the Christian faith.

If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ, your place in Heaven is assured. Why wouldn’t you want to know everything you can about what it will be like? Why wouldn’t you want to study the beauty, benefits, and blessings of your eternal home?

Heaven is a real place. It exists right now. Jesus said, “My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am” (John 14:2-3).

The apostle Paul longed so intensely for Heaven that he confessed he only continued his earthly ministry out of a sense of duty. He truly wished he could leave this earthly life and join his Lord in Heaven. He confessed, “I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body” (Philippians 1:23-24).

In 2 Corinthians 12:2, Paul talks about “a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up” into Heaven. Bible

scholars agree that Paul was obliquely speaking of himself. He had actually seen Heaven firsthand, though he adds, “Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know—God knows.” Because Paul had experienced Heaven in a deeply personal (though temporary) way, he couldn’t wait to be in Heaven forever.

In this earthly life, we cannot know the same privilege Paul knew of being taken up for a direct experience of Heaven. Yet we can catch a glimpse and a foretaste of Heaven through the Bible. The more we learn about Heaven from God’s Word, the more real it will be to us—and the more we will long to be there with Jesus.

Heaven is the fulfillment of all our greatest spiritual longings. As Solomon wrote at the height of his wisdom, God “set eternity in the human heart; yet no one can fathom what God has done from beginning to end” (Ecclesiastes 3:11).

My goal in this book is to stir in your heart a hunger for eternity; to fill your mind with a knowledge of all the wonders and glories that await you in Heaven; and energize you to live each day in light of the reality of Heaven. You have no reason to fear death—and neither should you be afraid of truly living in every moment of life.

Heaven is not only our future reality; it is also the present reality of every believer. Heaven is real. In fact, once you reach your eternal home with Jesus, you will discover that Heaven is far more real than this earthly experience you now call *reality*.

Our earthly lives are slipping away and quickly fading. That’s why Jesus tells us, “Do not store up for yourselves

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treasures on earth, where moths and vermin destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven” (Matthew 6:19-20). In other words, don’t merely invest in your life on earth, but invest in eternity. Invest in Heaven.

I hope this book will serve as your investment guide as you store up eternal treasures in your heavenly home. I want you to be fully prepared because Heaven is *now*, and Heaven is *forever*.

JOY of the LEAVE

part 1

HEAVEN IS ALL ABOUT JESUS

BEFORE FOUNDING The Church of the Apostles, I often traveled overseas on behalf of the Haggai Institute, a leadership training organization for evangelists. Several times a year, I was away from home for two weeks or longer at a time. When I was away, I deeply missed my wife and children. The pain and loneliness of those times of separation were eased only by the knowledge of the joyous reunion that would take place when I returned home.

I knew that, at the end of that long road, I would be greeted with hugs, kisses, and happy faces, and I would catch up on all the events I had missed while I was gone. I think those joyful reunions were but a faint echo of what

our reunion in Heaven will be. When I think of Heaven, the image that comes to mind is one of joyful reunions with family members and friends—and above all, the joy of seeing the face of Jesus.

Randy Alcorn beautifully captures the emotions of that reunion in his book titled *Heaven*: “Think of friends or family members who loved Jesus and are with him now. Picture them with you, walking together in this place. All of you have powerful bodies, stronger than those of an Olympic decathlete. You are laughing, playing, talking, and reminiscing. You reach up to a tree to pick an apple or orange. You take a bite. It’s so sweet that it’s startling. You’ve never tasted anything so good. Now you see someone coming toward you. It’s Jesus, with a big smile on his face. You fall to your knees in worship. He pulls you up and embraces you.”¹

Won’t that be amazing? Won’t that be thrilling? I can hardly think about Heaven without wanting to leave this earth *right now*. Why would anyone want to cling to this life when Heaven is waiting to receive us?

What Makes Heaven Heavenly?

Let me ask you a question: What is the one thing that makes Heaven heavenly?

Is it the fact that Heaven is made of precious stones and purest gold (Revelation 21:18-21)? Is it the great reunion of believers that will take place there? Is it amazing features such as the tree of life and the river of the water of life? Is it Heaven’s immense size and the vast number of mansions it contains?

No, none of these things makes Heaven heavenly. There is really only one aspect that makes Heaven what it is: *the presence of God*. Imagine the joy of seeing God's face, of being physically in the presence of the Lord Jehovah. Think of the blessing of seeing Jesus face-to-face and thanking him for giving his life for your salvation. Next to the privilege of adoring and worshiping him in person, nothing else matters.

Jesus is what makes Heaven heavenly.

All of Heaven's other glorious aspects and features will fill us with wonder and amazement. Certainly we look forward to them. But without Jesus, it would not be Heaven.

To be in Heaven is to behold Jesus face-to-face. To be in Heaven is to behold God the Father face-to-face. In the Psalms, the sons of Korah poetically expressed their deep longing to see God: "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?" (Psalm 42:1-2).

The thought of seeing God face-to-face exhilarates me, excites me, and fills me with emotion. It fulfills me and satisfies me completely. The thought of one day meeting God in person ignites my passion and energizes me to work harder for him.

The thought of seeing God face-to-face should comfort us when we grieve and encourage us when we are sick. It should enable us to rejoice amid the disappointments of life. It should empower us to persevere through opposition and adversity.

We will see God! That's what Heaven is all about.

Shekinah Glory

Does the prospect of seeing the face of God thrill you the way it thrills me?

The truth is that not all Christians are thrilled by the idea. Some do not have “seeing the face of God” on their wish list. Others are ambivalent about God or even afraid of him.

As children of God, if we have never contemplated the awe and wonder of seeing his face, we should take some time to think about it. The hope of seeing God face-to-face should be our greatest inspiration. It should be what we live for in this life. It should affect every decision we make. It should motivate us to live and work and speak and sacrifice with the hope of eternity always on our minds.

In the Old Testament, the people of Israel believed that God was present among them in the Holy of Holies, in the Tabernacle or the Temple. They didn’t think the Holy of Holies *contained* God, but they believed that he dwelled among his people in a special way, in the form of the shekinah glory—the glory of God that filled the Holy of Holies. (*shekinah* means *dwelling* in Hebrew.)

Though the Old Testament Israelites believed that God dwelled among them in the Holy of Holies, they didn’t imagine it could be possible to see God’s face. In fact, seeing his face would result in instant death.

Only the high priest was allowed to enter the Holy of Holies, and he went there only once a year. The book of Exodus specifies that the high priest’s robes were to be adorned with embroidered pomegranates and small golden

bells. “The sound of the bells will be heard,” the Lord said, “when he enters the Holy Place before the LORD and when he comes out, so that he will not die” (Exodus 28:35). The bells enabled those outside the Tabernacle to know when the high priest went into and out of the Holy of Holies.

According to an ancient Jewish tradition, the high priest would enter the Holy of Holies on the Day of Atonement, with a gold or scarlet rope tied to his foot. Though Scripture makes no mention of this practice, tradition has it that the purpose of the rope was to make it possible to retrieve the high priest’s body if he should ever fail in his duties and be struck dead inside the Holy of Holies. If the golden bells on the high priest’s robes went silent, the other priests would know to use the rope to pull the dead man’s body out of the Holy of Holies.

No one but the high priest dared to enter the Holy of Holies, because that was where the shekinah glory dwelled, symbolizing the presence of God. Under any other circumstances, for a mere mortal to stand in the presence of God’s glory would mean certain death.

There is a fascinating scene in Exodus 33, where Moses says to God, “Show me your glory” (Exodus 33:18).

God replies, “You cannot see my face, for no one may see me and live” (Exodus 33:20). But God, in his mercy, arranged for Moses to stand in a cleft of a rock while he passed by. The hand of God shielded Moses from the glory of God’s face. Then God took his hand away, and Moses saw God’s back, but not his face (Exodus 33:21-23).

Moses, that great man of God, was not permitted to see the face of God. But you and I will see God's face in Heaven. That is one of the most magnificent promises ever written (Revelation 22:4).

Only Sinless People

"Without holiness," the Bible tells us, "no one will see the Lord" (Hebrews 12:14). At first glance, this seems like bad news for every human being who has ever lived. Who among us is holy? Who among us is undefiled by sin? If only sinless people are permitted to see the face of God, what hope do you and I have? And yet the Bible is clear: "Without holiness no one will see the Lord."

You may be thinking, *You just got through telling me that I will get to see God. And now you're telling me I won't because I'm a sinner! This is the worst news ever!*

Ah, but I'm just getting to the best part.

It's true that you and I are sinners. We have no holiness or righteousness of our own on which to stand before the Lord. But if you have committed your life to Jesus Christ, if he is your Savior and Lord, I *guarantee* you will see God face-to-face.

You will not stand before God clothed in your own filthy rags of "good intentions." Instead, you will stand before him clothed in the radiant white garments of the holiness of Jesus Christ. If you have repented of your sins and received the forgiveness of Jesus, then God the Father will see you through the prism of Jesus, the perfection of Jesus, and the

sinlessness of Jesus—and you *will* see the face of God in Heaven.

Without holiness, no one will see the Lord. But Jesus is our holiness. His sinless perfection will be imputed to us. We will stand before God the Father as if we had never sinned at all.

There is a statement I have heard people make many times. I have heard people say it when I have shared the gospel with them. I have heard people say it on talk shows. I have heard people say it in casual conversation. They say something like this: “I believe God is a God of love. When I die, God will accept me. I know I’m not very religious, and I’ve never paid much attention to Jesus. But I’m not a bad person. If God really is a God of love, he will let me into Heaven.”

I can’t tell you how many times I’ve heard people express these sentiments, and I will tell you honestly, I ache inside every time I hear it. It sickens me to know that people are so deceived about God’s nature and so careless about their own eternal destiny. Yes, God is a God of love. He loves us so much that he sent his only Son to die in our place so that we can live forever in Heaven. He loves us so much that he offered us salvation as a free gift of grace.

But we must *accept* the gift. We must *repent* of our sins and *receive* the forgiveness that comes only through Jesus. We can’t simply drift through life, pursuing our own ambitions and worshiping our own selves, while vaguely assuming that God will grade on a curve and let us into Heaven

if we're better than average. God doesn't grade on a curve—it's pass-fail. And the only way to pass is by accepting the holiness and forgiveness of Jesus. Without it, *no one* will see the Lord.

And consider this: If Heaven is all about Jesus, and if you don't love Jesus during your life here on earth, you wouldn't be happy in Heaven anyway. You wouldn't be able to stand it because Heaven is all about Jesus.

We Will See God's Face

Heaven will be a *thrilling* and *fulfilling* eternal experience.

Everyone on earth has unfulfilled hopes and dreams. What are yours? What are your expectations about life that have not been met? What disappointments have you suffered? What promises have people made to you that they haven't kept? What opportunities in life have you missed that will never come your way again?

In Heaven, all of your longings will be satisfied forever. Why? Because you will be in the presence of God, seeing him face-to-face, and that will be the fulfillment of all the longings of your earthly life. When you finally behold God in all his glory, you will know complete satisfaction and joy for the first time ever.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives us a beautiful promise: "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God" (Matthew 5:8). The Greek word for *pure* in this verse is *katharos*, which means blameless and unstained by guilt. Who are the pure in heart? Those who have been made

blameless, whose guilty, sinful stains have been washed away by the blood of Jesus.

What lies ahead for the pure in heart? They will see God in Heaven.

These words of Jesus remind us of the promise in Revelation 22:3-4: “The throne of God and of the Lamb [Jesus] will be in the city [the New Jerusalem], and his servants will serve him. They will see his face, and his name will be on their foreheads.” Who are the servants of Jesus? The pure in heart, the ones who will see God’s face.

How Can We See the Invisible God?

At this point, you may be thinking, *How are we going to see God’s face? Doesn’t the Bible teach that God is a spirit?* These are important questions.

It’s true that God is a spirit. As Jesus told the woman at the well in Samaria, “God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth” (John 4:24). Jesus, the Son of God, came to earth in human flesh and lived among us, but God the Father did not. Jesus has a human body, but God the Father is spirit.

The Bible sometimes speaks of God as if he has a human body. For example, when Moses hid in the cleft of the rock on Mount Sinai, he was allowed to see God’s “back” but not his “face.” It’s not easy for us to understand what that meant in Moses’ experience. But we know that God must have passed by in some glorious manifestation and that Moses saw the glory, but he was not permitted to see God’s face.

We know that, elsewhere in Scripture, God is described in anthropomorphic terms—that is, using words that figuratively attribute physical, humanlike characteristics to God so that we can understand and relate to him. In Isaiah 59:1, the prophet says, “Surely the arm of the LORD is not too short to save, nor his ear too dull to hear.” And 2 Chronicles 16:9 says, “For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth.” It’s important to understand that this is metaphorical language, not to be taken literally.

The clearly literal passages of Scripture that tell us about God’s true nature always describe him as *spirit*. After Solomon completed the construction of the great Temple in Jerusalem, he acknowledged that God, as a spirit, could not be contained within a house made of stone: “Will God really dwell on earth with humans? The heavens, even the highest heavens, cannot contain you. How much less this temple I have built!” (2 Chronicles 6:18).

The apostle Paul tells us that God, being a spirit, is invisible: “The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation” (Colossians 1:15). Paul also wrote, “Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen” (1 Timothy 1:17).

So, since God is an invisible spirit, how will we see his face in Heaven?

Seeing with Resurrection Eyes

We must never forget that we will have new, spiritual, resurrection bodies in Heaven. They will be like the resurrection

body of Jesus. Remember how, a week after the Resurrection, Jesus appeared to Thomas and the other disciples? John 20:26 tells us, “Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, ‘Peace be with you!’” Locked doors were no barrier to Jesus—yet his resurrection body was visible and physical as well as spiritual. Jesus invited Thomas to touch the wounds he had suffered on the cross.

Our resurrection bodies will presumably be like Christ’s, perfect and unlimited by physical infirmities or barriers. We will be recognizable, but completed and perfected. We will have all the supernatural, spiritual knowledge that we sadly lack in this earthly life. Our earthly eyes are fallen eyes, diseased and clouded by the effects of sin. But our resurrection eyes will see all that is invisible to our earthly, mortal eyes. Our resurrection eyes will see the face of God.

We can’t imagine what the face of God the Father will look like to our resurrection eyes. But we know that we will see what Moses was never allowed to see in his earthly body. We will see the ultimate reality of God’s face.

And yes, we are also going to see the face of Jesus. We will see him in all his resurrected glory, in his perfect resurrected body, with all his resurrected power. We will see him as John saw him in the vision of Revelation—“dressed in a robe reaching down to his feet and with a golden sash around his chest. The hair on his head was white like wool, as white as snow, and his eyes were like blazing fire. . . . His face was like the sun shining in all its brilliance” (Revelation 1:13-16).

I’ve heard some people claim that the Old Testament

Israelites had no concept of Heaven and no belief in the afterlife. That claim ignores numerous Old Testament passages that speak of Heaven or the afterlife. (See, for example, Genesis 5:24; 1 Kings 22:19; 2 Kings 2:9-12; Psalm 16:10, 49:15, 73:24-26; Isaiah 6:1, 25:8, 26:19; and Daniel 12:1-3.)

The most explicit expression in the Old Testament of the hope of a physical resurrection is that of Job, who fully expected to see the face of God in Heaven: “I know that my redeemer lives, and that in the end he will stand on the earth. And after my skin has been destroyed, yet in my flesh I will see God” (Job 19:25-26).

Job said he would see God in Heaven. Jesus said that the pure in heart will see God in Heaven. Revelation says we will see God’s face in Heaven. From the Old Testament to the New, Scripture consistently promises that we will see God face-to-face in Heaven. Can there be any greater hope and assurance than that?

The expectation that we will see God’s face in our resurrection bodies is both thrilling and fulfilling beyond our comprehension. We can’t imagine it now, but when the moment comes, we will experience Heaven to the fullest, highest, deepest, widest, most meaningful extent.

The End of All Deceptions and Delusions

Whenever you consider one of God’s magnificent creations—mountains, oceans, stars and planets, the magnificent intricacies of the human body—remind yourself that these are mere glimpses and foretastes of the glories we will see in Heaven.

Everything in Heaven will be unimaginably more magnificent than any of the wonders of earth and the universe.

The face of God will be the greatest wonder of all.

Heaven will be the ultimate experience because there will be no deceptions or delusions there. There will be no sin to separate us from God or from one another. In Heaven we will see God as he is, and we will see ourselves and one another as God sees us.

How does God see us? He sees us as a cherished work of his creation. He sees us as his workmanship, precious in his sight.

How do we see each other? We may think we see other people as God's workmanship—and in our most charitable and godly moments, perhaps we do. But the real test of how we view others comes when we are driving and someone cuts in front of us and we have to slam on the brakes to avoid an accident. The words that come out of our mouths at that moment will tell us how we really see other people. Do we bless and forgive them as God's precious creations—or do we curse or revile them?

In Heaven, we will see each other as God sees us. All anger and hatred, all suspicion and defensiveness, all temptation and sin will be no more. All disappointments will become divine appointments. All discontentment will be replaced with eternal contentment.

The Restoration of God's Tangible Presence

Theologians often speak of Heaven as the restoration of the lost Garden of Eden. And that is true in many ways. For

example, the tree of life, which was taken from the earth when Eden was lost, will be replanted in the new Jerusalem. The splendor and beauty of Eden will be everywhere throughout Heaven. All of that is true.

But I think many people misunderstand the true source of Eden's splendor and beauty. It wasn't the trees and flowering plants, the abundant food that grew everywhere, the waterfalls and streams, or the many varieties of peaceful animals that made Eden what it was. Though all those things were amazing and wonderful, of course, none of them were the source of Eden's magnificence and glory.

No, Eden was astonishingly beautiful *because God was present there*. Genesis 3:8 tells us, "The man and his wife heard the sound of the LORD God as he was walking in the garden in the cool of the day." I don't know how figurative this statement is, but it certainly sounds quite literal. There is some sense in which God, taking humanlike form, was present in the Garden of Eden. Before sin entered the world, Adam and Eve were accustomed to seeing God face-to-face in the Garden. They had fellowship with him. They talked to him.

But after the Fall they hid from him.

Humanity would not have a direct experience with God again until the shekinah glory of God came from Heaven in the person of Jesus Christ and dwelt among us for a time.

Today, we have a glimpse of what it is like to experience the presence of God because the Holy Spirit dwells in us. The Spirit guides us and comforts us and fills us with joy.

But because of our fallen, un-resurrected state, our experience of God's presence is limited and incomplete. In Heaven, we will experience God in a way that is limitless, complete, and beyond our present comprehension. Once again, human beings will be able to walk with God in the cool of the day in the gardens of Heaven. We will see him face-to-face.

When we arrive in Heaven and see the face of Jesus, all of the puzzlements of this life will be solved. All our present painful experiences will be transformed into heavenly delights. Our tears will become oceans of joy. Our pain will become clouds of endless beauty.

Your Ticket to Heaven

Here's the most important question of all: If you were to die today, are you sure you would be in Heaven?

Someone once asked me, "How can you be certain you are going to Heaven?" Before I could reply, the person continued, "That seems like an arrogant, presumptuous statement. The closest I can come is to say, 'I *hope* I'll go to Heaven,' but I really can't be sure. I think it's a sign of humility to say, 'I hope so,' and leave it at that."

I said, "My beloved friend, the certainty of Heaven that you mistake for arrogance in me is what sets the Christian faith apart from all other religions. God himself promised that, if we surrender to Jesus Christ in repentance and faith, our salvation is assured. We don't have to 'hope' we'll go to Heaven. It's not a matter of 'maybe' or 'possibly.' God has given us a rock-solid assurance that we will see him in Heaven."

When you receive Jesus Christ into your life and begin your walk with him, you will discover that this life is but a train ride—and every one of us will get off at a station along the way. Your journey may end in thirty minutes, thirty days, thirty years, but the train ride will eventually, and inevitably, come to an end.

But if you are walking with Jesus, your train ride will end at a station called Heaven. That is your destination. Your train ticket is stamped for “Heaven,” and that is where you’ll get off the train and live throughout eternity.

And here’s more good news: When you walk with Jesus, eternity in Heaven doesn’t begin when you die. It begins when you say “yes” to Jesus. Eternal life begins at that moment, and it never ends. When you step off that train in Heaven and see the face of God, you will experience unspeakable joy.

The right to stand before God, robed in the righteousness and sinlessness of Jesus, has been purchased in your name by the blood of Jesus Christ. When he died on the cross, he purchased all the tickets that will get you and me and every other believer into Heaven. He has those tickets in his nail-scarred hands.

The blood of Jesus is your ticket to Heaven. Apart from the blood of Jesus, you can never enter Heaven and you can never see the face of God.

And here is something else that is vital to understand: Satan is printing up phony tickets. He is handing out these counterfeits to millions of people and deceiving them into thinking they have free passage to Heaven. Satan’s phony

tickets say nothing about the blood of Jesus. Instead, they say you can enter Heaven through your good works, good intentions, or good vibes; or through the teachings of Muhammad, the Dalai Lama, L. Ron Hubbard, Joseph Smith, Mary Baker Eddy, or a New Age guru. All these “alternate paths” are phony tickets to Heaven, printed up by Satan.

How do you know if you have a genuine ticket to Heaven? That’s easy: It’s only genuine if it was paid for by the blood of Jesus.

Eternal Life in View

One Sunday morning, evangelist Charles E. Fuller announced on his radio program, *The Old Fashioned Revival Hour*, that his next week’s sermon would be about Heaven. During the week, he received a letter from a man who was in the final stages of a terminal illness.

The letter read in part, “Next Sunday you are to talk about Heaven. I am interested in that land, because I have held a clear title to a bit of property there for over fifty-five years. I did not buy it. It was given to me without money and without price. But the donor purchased it for me at tremendous sacrifice. . . . Termites can never undermine its foundations for they rest on the rock of ages. Fire cannot destroy it. Floods cannot wash it away.”²

These are the words of a man who was living the last days of his earthly life with eternity in view. Eagerly anticipating leaving this world behind, with all of its sorrows, he looked forward to moving into his eternal home and seeing the face of God.

All believers will arrive at their eternal destination, a place called Heaven. But not all believers will receive the same rewards in eternity. Paul writes, “We make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad” (2 Corinthians 5:9-10).

Jesus has already resolved our eternal destiny. It was settled when he died on the cross and said, “It is finished,” and it was settled when we repented of our sins and received the forgiveness and eternal life he freely offers us. But Jesus will judge us in eternity—not for our sins, but for the works we have done in this life. He will reward us for the works we do in faith and obedience.

In his parable of the talents, Jesus talks about the judgment and rewarding of his followers. Those who serve him faithfully will hear the voice of the master, Jesus, saying, “Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master’s happiness!” (Matthew 25:23).

If you have placed your trust in Jesus Christ, you are going to live in Heaven, with Jesus, forever. If you are wise and faithful, you will spend the remainder of this life preparing for the next. You will serve Jesus faithfully, looking forward to the day when you see God face-to-face and we hear Jesus say, “Well done, good and faithful servant!”