

# Ask God: What happens after I die?

Living this life in preparation for the next one.

By Tim LaTour, April 28, 2024

What I believe  about the afterlife  will influence  how I live my life.

For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through Him. Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son.

John 3:16-18

**Am I saved? How can I know for sure?**

I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.

1 John 5:13

**As believers, what happens when we die?**

**Immediately?**

Jesus answered him, "Truly I tell you, today you will be with Me in paradise."

Luke 23:43

For we know that if the earthly tent we live in is destroyed, we have a building from God, an eternal house in heaven, not built by human hands. Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed instead with our heavenly dwelling... Therefore we are always confident and know that as long as we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord. For we live by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. So 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 judgement 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 5:1-2, 6-10

**Judgement?**

**Final Destination?**

What will we look like?

Brothers and sisters, we do not want you to be uninformed about those who sleep in death, so that you do not grieve like the rest of mankind, who have no hope. For we believe that Jesus died and rose again, and so we believe that God will bring with Jesus those who have fallen asleep in Him.

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14

So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonour, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. Listen, I tell you a mystery: We will not all sleep, but we will all be changed – in a flash, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed.

1 Corinthians 15:42-44, 51-52

### New Heaven and New Earth?

Then I saw “a new heaven and a new earth”, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea. I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband. And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Look! God’s dwelling place is now among the people, and He will dwell with them. They will be His people, and God Himself will be with them and be their God. ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death’ or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”

Revelation 21:1-4

Confirm your destination ✓ .

Live with eternity ✓ in your heart ✓ and trust that God is in control ✓ .

Prepare for the new ✓ creation ✓ by loving ✓ and serving ✓ this one.

### REFLECTION QUESTIONS

1. What do you imagine when you think about the afterlife? Is it confusing, frightening, or exciting? Have you confirmed your final destination? How can you gain a better understanding of what happens after death?
2. How does living in light of eternity influence your daily life? How does knowing what Jesus teaches about eternal life help you live this life?