

Coming Back from Death
2 Corinthians 5:1-10, Pew Bible p. 966
September 25, 2022

I. Looking Forward to Heaven (V. 1-5)

- A. Heaven reminds us that death is not as bad as we think.
- B. Heaven is an eternal reward for the Christian.
- C. Heaven is the only hope after death.
- D. Heaven is guaranteed with the presence of the Holy Spirit.

II. Letting Go of This Life (V. 6-10)

- A. Heaven reminds us that this life is not as great as we think.
 - 1. If you don't want what is in heaven, you are probably not going there.
 - 2. If you have no desire to worship God in this life, you will not suddenly start in the next.
- B. Heaven reminds us that obedience is worth it.
 - 1. If a guarantee of heaven does not make you fear God more, you have no guarantee.

Group Discussion Questions

1. Read 2 Corinthians 5:1-10.
2. Have you ever been afraid of death? Why? What are some things that have made you less afraid and what are some things that make you still fear it?
3. What are some reasons Christians should not be afraid of death, according to verses 1-5?
4. What do these verses mean by “we” and why does that help us understand what this text is saying? Why is it important that we understand when the Bible is giving assurance of heaven and when it is not?
5. How does the Holy Spirit function as a deposit/guarantee that God is going to bring someone to heaven? What about the presence of the Holy Spirit prepares us for heaven?
6. How does the assurance of heaven later help encourage Christians now, according to verses 5-10? Has the promise of heaven ever encouraged you? How?
7. Does the fact that Christians are promised heaven mean they will not be held accountable at all for their shortcomings on judgment day, according to verses 9-10?
8. Pray for our church members, that we would long for heaven even as we are on mission in life. Consider attending the church prayer meeting every Sunday at 7 pm. Register at the church website at www.apollobaptist.org.

Church Bible Reading Plan

Numbers 22-24

September Memory Verses: Numbers 16:46-50

2 Peter 3:8-9

⁸ But do not overlook this one fact, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. ⁹ The Lord is not slow to fulfill his promise as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing that any should perish, but that all should reach repentance.

BEFORE Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

If you have not done so already, please register on the www.apollobaptist.org home page by clicking the image for the Prayer Meeting. Register with your name and email address. This registration will last through 12/25/2022. Click on the emailed Zoom link at the time of the Prayer Meeting.

Sunday Night Prayer Meeting:

- PRAYING for lost people we know to come to Christ.

Pray for Our Church Family Needs:

- PRAY for missions and missionaries:
Andy & Lindsay M. in Spain; Luke P. in Maricopa, Arizona, Nathan & Becky F. in Indonesia; Doug & Cheryl D. in Thailand; Jules S. in Thailand; and Sylvia M. and Andrew M. at ASU West, Arizona
- PRAY for all our students: elementary, middle school, high school, and college. No matter whether they are in the classroom, an online setting, or a home school setting, our students are forming minds that need to focus on Christ.
- Family & friends of church members who need salvation or to renew their relationship with Jesus
Marge D. – Salvation for son, Matthew
- Families who are grieving the recent loss of loved ones:
Family of Phyllis W.; Paul W. & family (aunt), family of Joan S.; Anne W.-B. & family (husband); Sherri O. (uncle); and Barbara K. (husband)
- Those struggling with ongoing health and other issues:
Michelle L. (health issues); Leon V. (chemo); Ken & Darlene R. (health issues); Twila D. (serious health issues); Wayne D. (serious health issues); Debbie B. (radiation treatments); Debbie P. (health issues); Ann C.-W. (health issues); John E. (eyelid cancer/kidney issues); Michelle LaM. (asthma/health issues); Jim M. (recovery from arm injury & surgery); Mary R. (transplant recovery); and Laura M. (undiagnosed health issue)
- Others that you are aware of