

What Will
Heaven
Be Like?

Joel James

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by

Joel James

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What Will Heaven Be Like?

Should Christians think about heaven? Yes! Paul made that clear when he wrote to the Colossians: "Keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth" (Col 3:1-2).

Christians should meditate on heaven, but how often do *you* think about it? Not often enough. Perhaps the problem is you don't know what to think. What is it like above, where Christ is? What *is* heaven like? Will we grow wings, be cute, pudgy, and take harp lessons? (God hasn't told us everything about heaven, but we can safely dismiss *that*.) Here's what the Bible says heaven will be like: It will be...

- | | |
|------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1) new | 6) family love |
| 2) full | 7) better |
| 3) forever | 8) glorious |
| 4) like being a bride | 9) going home |
| 5) a time of reward and rest | 10) seeing Jesus Christ |

Before we consider the ten things heaven will be, we must ask, Who goes to heaven? Anyone? Everyone? All religious people of every faith even if they don't believe in Jesus Christ as Saviour? People who say they are Christians but live suspiciously like non-Christians? Here's what the Bible says about who does and who doesn't go to heaven.

Those who go:

- Those who believe in Jesus Christ (John 3:16, 36; 6:40, 47; 1 Tim 1:16).
- Those who turn from darkness to light, and from Satan to God for forgiveness of sins (Acts 26:18).
- Those who know God and Christ (John 17:3).
- Those who are born again by belief in Jesus Christ, His death for sins, and His resurrection from the dead (1 Peter 1:3-4).
- Those who obey Christ (Heb 5:9).
- Those who deny themselves, take up their cross, and follow Jesus (Matt 16:24-27).
- Those who do the will of Jesus' Father (Matt 7:21).
- Those who are ready for Jesus' return (Matt 25:1-13).

Those who don't go:

- Those who do not believe in and obey Jesus Christ (John 3:36).
- Those who, like the rich young ruler, refuse to admit their sin and submit to Jesus' lordship (Matt 19:16-22).

- Those who love their lives more than Christ (Matt 16:25-26; John 12:23).
- Those who claim to be Christians but continually live in the deeds of the flesh, including sexual sin, anger, envy, drunkenness, and lying (Gal 5:19-21; Rev 22:15).
- Those who hate others (1 John 3:15).
- Those who claim to be Christians, trusting in their many miraculous experiences, but live wickedly (Matt 7:22-23).
- Those whose "faith" doesn't produce works (James 2:14).
- Those who reject the word of God (Acts 13:46).

Who goes to heaven? Those who believe in Jesus Christ, turn away from their sin, seek God's forgiveness, and as a result of God's grace walk in newness of life.

The night before His death, Jesus was asked a question by one of the disciples: "Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?" Jesus' answer was, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me" (John 14:6). No works get you to heaven. No righteous deeds, just faith in Jesus' death on the cross, faith that His life was given to satisfy God's wrath at your sin.

If you know you aren't going to heaven, I suggest you set this booklet aside right now and repent, asking God to forgive your sin through Jesus Christ. Then read this booklet knowing that heaven will be your eternal home. On the other hand, if you love Christ, wade right in up to your chin in the exhilarating joy of your heavenly reward. What will heaven be like?

1) Heaven will be new

Everything in heaven will be new—sparklingly, stunningly, overwhelmingly new. God said so: "The first things have passed away...behold, I am making all things new" (Rev 21:4-5). The New Testament says there are three things that will be especially new in heaven: the universe, Christ's capital city (the *New* Jerusalem), and our bodies. First, the *universe*.

Recently, I had the privilege of attending a missions conference in Beatenberg, Switzerland. Beatenberg is a flower-strewn village perched on a steep, wooded hillside above the impossibly aquamarine water of Lake Thun. Across the lake rise the foothills of the Bernese Oberland, eventually dwarfed by the lofty, snow-clad heads of the Eiger, Monch, and Jungfrau, three of the Alps' most beautiful mountains. The view from Beatenberg might be the most stunning panorama I have ever seen.

However, Revelation 21:1, indicates that the making of Beatenberg's spectacular scenery was only a practice run for God. He was just warming up for the *new* creation. This world is a rough pencil sketch to be replaced by the stunning colours and rich textures of the divine oil painter's eternal masterpiece.

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth passed away.

(Rev 21:1)

God will send the old, sin-corrupted universe to the scrap yard to be incinerated in a blast furnace: "The heavens will pass away with a roar and the elements will be destroyed with intense heat, and the earth and its works will be burned up" (2 Peter 3:10). God said in Isaiah that the beauty and grandeur of the new universe will be so staggering that we won't even remember this earth: "For behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former things will not be remembered or come to mind" (Is 65:17). God will totally redesign the universe for His glory and our benefit. That's the first thing that will be new about heaven.

The second thing that will be new is the *capital city* from which Jesus Christ, the King of kings, will rule the new universe. Read John's description of it.

I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, made ready as a bride adorned for her husband... And he [an angel] carried me away in the Spirit to a great and high mountain, and showed me the holy city, Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, having the glory of God. Her brilliance was like a very costly stone, as a stone of crystal-clear jasper...

...The city is laid out as a square, and its length is as great as the width; and he measured the city with the rod, fifteen hundred miles [2400 km]; its length and width and height are equal... The material of the wall was jasper; and the city was pure gold, like clear glass.

(Rev 21: 2, 10-11, 16, 18)

The Apostle John was told that the New Jerusalem will be 2400 kilometres high, wide, and deep. It will be made of a heavenly material that John compared to crystal, diamond, and clear, see-through gold. This monumental city will pulsate with an internal glow—the light of the presence of God. Imagine a city which looks like an internally lit diamond as large as Australia. That's the capital city of heaven, and that's where you'll be living when Christ takes you home. Heaven, to put it mildly, will be new.

The third thing that will be new in heaven is our *bodies*. As amazing as they are, our bodies are one of our greatest frustrations. From joints that don't work as well as they used to, to loss of hair, sight, and hearing, to deadly diseases—it is evident that one of the things God will have to make new in heaven is our bodies.¹

¹ Instead of complaining about our gradual (or not so gradual) physical degeneration, we should consider aging and sickness as gifts given by God to help us set our minds on the new, glorified bodies He will give us in heaven.

For we know that if the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. For indeed in this house we groan, longing to be clothed with our dwelling from heaven, inasmuch as we, having put it on, will not be found naked.

(2 Corinthians 5:1-3)

Paul called our physical bodies a tent. It's a good description. You've probably been camping, so you understand the illustration. A tent is a temporary dwelling: the pegs pull up, the poles collapse, gusts of wind blow it away. That's what our bodies are like.

But Paul also said, "If the earthly tent which is our house is torn down, we have a *building* from God" (v. 1, emphasis added). In contrast to our earthly, temporary bodies that break, get sick, grow old, and wear out, Paul said our heavenly bodies will be *buildings*, i.e., permanent dwellings. Paul spoke of our permanent, heavenly, glorified bodies in 1 Corinthians 15.

Now I say this, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. Behold, I tell you a mystery; we will not all sleep, but we will all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet; for the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we will be changed. For this perishable must put on the imperishable, and this mortal must put on immortality.

(1 Cor 15:50-53)

Our perishable, weak, nature-bound bodies simply won't be suited for heaven: for one thing, they won't last long enough. God will give us new bodies that are capable of both fully enjoying the glories of heaven and enjoying them forever.

What will those new bodies be like? Paul said they will be spiritual bodies: imperishable, glorious, and powerful (1 Cor 15:42-44). Beyond that, our best guess is that they will be like Jesus' body after His resurrection. If so, we'll be able to eat (Luke 24:42-43), but at the same time we will be spiritual, not restrained by the physical dimension—able to pass through walls unhindered, and so on (Luke 24:31, 36; John 20:19, 26).

In other words, in heaven our bodies are going to be something unimaginably new, liberating, and enjoyable. Whatever sicknesses, hindrances, allergies, and handicaps we had on this earth will be wiped out when God takes us home.

We'll still be recognisable as our old selves. (I won't suddenly be two metres tall and handsome!) After His resurrection, Jesus was recognisable to the disciples as the same Jesus. We'll keep our features, but since there will be no sin in heaven, we'll be content with those features. (That will be new, too!) You might say we'll be *perfectly* recognisable.

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be strikingly, tantalisingly new. "The first things have passed away...behold, I am making all things new" (Revelation 21:4-5).

2) Heaven will be full

One of the great memories of my youth comes from the time when my parents were missionaries in Ecuador, South America (I was about eight). We attended a small church called English Fellowship Church in the capital city of Quito. I especially remember one of the Sunday evening services. The small church was so packed that, in order to create more room in the pews, the children gave up their seats and sat on the floor between the first pew and the pulpit. Filling that space, we sat on the steps leading up to the platform, and even on the platform itself, surrounding the pulpit so that the preacher hardly had room to stand.

Of course, the atmosphere of anticipation and enthusiasm created by the crowded church motivated the preacher to preach with lightening bolts and thunderclaps. We closed the service with the rousing hymn, *Coming Again*. The preacher, as he always did when we sang that hymn, instructed us, "Sing the chorus: 'Maybe morning, may be noon, may be evening, *will be soon*,'" and we lifted the roof in joyful anticipation of Christ's return.

It was a wonderful hour of worship, crowded together, hearing God's word, and singing His praise. I will never forget how the very fullness of the church contributed to the joy of the moment. According to the Apostle John, that's what heaven will be like: it will be *full*.

After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count, from every nation and all tribes and peoples and tongues, standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes, and palm branches were in their hands; and they cry out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb."

(Rev 7:9-10)

Heaven will be full—full of all the saints of all the ages, full of people who love God and Christ. Heaven will be full of forgiven sinners, each with a different story of how God's grace rescued them. Heaven will be a packed worship service—literally millions of believers from every age and every race, our upturned faces bathed in the light of the glory of God.

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be a worship service without an empty seat, a worship service without standing room, a worship service of joy just because of its very fullness. It's a worship service you won't want to miss.

3) Heaven will be forever

You have heard the saying, "All good things must come to an end." Like most truisms, it's partially false. *Heaven* will never come to an end.

And there will no longer be any night; and they will not have need of the light of a lamp nor the light of the sun, because the Lord God will illumine them; and they will reign forever and ever.

(Rev 22:5)

In the small country church my family attended while I was in high school, one of the members was a dear old saint who lived to be 103. On her one hundredth birthday, she told the pastor, "Everyone is so kind, so excited about my one hundredth birthday, but to be honest, I'm tired of this life. I've had a good life, but I've seen enough. I'm ready to go see Jesus now." After one hundred years of life on this earth, you're ready to pack it in and call it a day. Not in heaven; you'll never grow tired of it.

To what can we compare the forever of heaven? Think of it this way: Have you ever had such a wonderful day that you said to yourself, "I wish this day would never end"? My five-year old son had one of those days recently. Some friends took us to Disneyland while we were visiting family in the States. About three o'clock in the afternoon as we were walking from one ride to the next, Daniel looked up at me and asked in his typically breathless fashion, "Daddy, can we sleep here tonight?" He was having so much fun, he didn't want the day to end.

But on this earth, such days do end, and you have to go back to your job, back to washing dishes, back to algebra, or (in my son's case) back to picking up your toys and making your bed. The forever of heaven won't be like that. It will be like the best day of your life, except it will never end. In heaven you won't fear the setting of the sun and a return to boring, trudging, lead-footed reality. The joyful satisfaction we can never sustain on earth will be forever in heaven.

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be fascinatingly and overwhelmingly new; it will be wonderfully full; it will be joyously forever.

4) Heaven will be like being a bride

One of the most exciting descriptions of heaven is the one found in Revelation 19. Heaven will be a wedding.

Then I heard something like the voice of a great multitude and like the sound of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, saying, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God, the Almighty, reigns. Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him, for the marriage of the Lamb has come and His bride has made herself ready."

(Rev 19:6-7)

The church is Christ's bride (Eph 5:25-27). That means that heaven will be like a wedding at which you and all other believers marry Jesus Christ. Of course, the women will relate to this better than the men. Ladies, do you remember the enthusiasm, the joy, the sparkle of your wedding day? If you're not married yet, I know you have imagined what it will be like. If you think your wedding day was or will be fun—decked out in shining white, hair done, make-up perfect, adored by your husband—imagine how exciting it will be to be presented as Christ's bride in *heavenly* splendour!

What will heaven be like?

It will be as exciting and as loving as getting married all day, every day, forever. It will be the best wedding ever, and it will never end.

5) Heaven will be a time of reward and rest

Being a Christian isn't always easy; often it is sacrificial. In Paul's figurative language, you have to beat your body black and blue (1 Cor 9:27). You set aside your enjoyment, pleasures, and goals for Christ's. Will it be worth it? Yes. Why? Because heaven is a time of reward and rest.

Then Peter said to Him, "Behold, we have left everything and followed You; what then will there be for us?"

(Matt 19:27)

I believe Peter's question was genuine, not selfish: "Jesus, we've made great sacrifices to follow You, will it be worth it in the end?"

And Jesus said to them, "Truly I say to you, that you who have followed Me, in the regeneration when the Son of Man will sit on His glorious throne, you also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who has left houses or brothers or sisters or father or mother or children or farms for My name's sake, will receive many times as much, and will inherit eternal life."

(Matt 19:28-29)

Whatever you give for Christ, whatever sacrifices you make in this life, He will reward you for many times over in heaven. The Apostle Paul understood that heaven was a time of reward and rest, that's why he could say this at the end of his life:

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the course, I have kept the faith; in the future there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day; and not only to me, but also to all who have loved His appearing.

(2 Tim 4:6-8)

Most days of being a pastor are, for me, stimulating and a great joy. I love helping people understand God's word and teaching them how to apply it to life. I love preaching the gospel. However, occasionally there are days when I sit in my study and wonder, "How can I handle this for another thirty or forty years?" Paul's words remind me that it is okay to work until my life energy is exhausted. I too, can run the race, finish the course. Why? My reward, my rest is in heaven. So is yours. After seventy or eighty years of work, the eternal weekend of heaven will start.

Has life been hard? Physically gruelling because of poor health? Emotionally despairing because of broken relationships? Just lonely, sad, or difficult at too many points? Don't despair, rest is coming.

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be a soft pillow and cool sheets at the end of the exhausting day of life. Heaven will be a time of reward and rest.

6) Heaven will be family love

I hope you had a wonderful family life growing up, but whatever you had in this life, you can be assured that heaven will be perfect family love. Heaven will be an environment of warmth, mutual concern, acceptance, and love that can only be described in terms of family.

See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are...Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be...

(1 John 3:1-2a)

When the Apostle John spoke of heaven—what we will be—the only way he could describe it was in family terms. God is Father; Christ is the one true Son. Believers in Christ are adopted sons and daughters brought into the family of perfect love. As a Christian you have been transferred into the biggest, most loving family ever. You have become the affection-showered children of the

great King: "See how great a love the Father has bestowed on us, that we would be called children of God; and such we are" (v. 1).

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be the embrace of a Father who felt compassion on sin orphans, and welcomed us in out of the cold, rainy dark to sit on His lap by a warm fire. Heaven will be family love.

7) Heaven will be better

There is simply no other way to say it: heaven *is* better.

For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that is to be revealed to us.

(Rom 8:18)

Heaven is a rich, juicy steak; this life dry oatmeal. In fact, Paul said that the glory and joy of heaven is so great, our current sufferings are nothing by comparison.

Coming from anyone but the Apostle Paul, that might sound trite, a religious plaster stuck over the gushing wound of life. But Paul knew what he was talking about; he knew all about the sufferings of this present time. In fact, when Jesus called Paul to be an apostle, Jesus said, "I will show him how much he must suffer for My name's sake" (Acts 9:16).

And Paul had suffered. He had been stoned, beaten, rejected by friends and family, hated, and imprisoned for the gospel. There had been countless sleepless nights, untrue accusations from false apostles, three shipwrecks, and one hundred and ninety-five lashes from the whip (thirty-nine lashes, five times).²

In Paul's estimation, all those things added up to exactly *nothing* compared to the glory of heaven. Paul had been there—have you forgotten? In 2 Corinthians 12, Paul spoke (although in the third person, clearly of himself) of being caught up to the third heaven in a God-given vision. He was, "caught up into Paradise and heard inexpressible words, which a man is not permitted to speak" (2 Cor 12:4).

When Paul said in Romans 8:18 that the sufferings of this world aren't worthy to be compared to the glory of heaven, he knew what he was talking about: he had been there. Paul had seen the worst of life and the best of heaven, and he knew that heaven was better: far, far better. It was worth any suffering in this life.

² 2 Corinthians 11:23-29.

Therefore we do not lose heart, but though our outer man is decaying, yet our inner man is being renewed day by day. For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison.

(2 Corinthians 4:16-17)

Some might fear dying, not Paul. He knew heaven was better: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain" (Phil 1:21).

How is heaven better? Jude 24 says that in heaven God will make us sinless and joyful (as if you had to add the second after having said the first). Heaven will be better because it will be safe. Revelation 21:25 says of heaven, "Its gates will never be closed." The New Jerusalem is a city without enemies, without crime. Heaven will also be better because there will be no suffering, sadness, crying, or pain there.

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away." And He who sits on the throne said, "Behold, I am making all things new."

(Rev 21:4-5)

Heaven will be better because God will be with us in some special, personal way that vastly excels our current Spirit-indwelling.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them.

(Rev 21:3)

As long as the Lord leaves me here, I'm content to pour out my life for Christ on this earth, but do you know where I really want to be? Where God is. He made me. I'll be happiest in His presence; so will you.

What will heaven be like?

The difference between this life and heaven will be the difference between reading a recipe and actually eating the cake. Heaven will be better, unimaginably better.

8) Heaven will be glorious

The two chapters of the Bible that display the glory of heaven better than any others are Revelation 4-5. They recount a scene from God's heavenly throne room.

A throne was standing in heaven, and One sitting on the throne. And He who was sitting was like a jasper stone and a sardius in appearance; and there was a rainbow around the throne, like an emerald in appearance.

(Rev 4:2-3)

As you would expect, the glory of heaven begins with God Himself. In John's vision, God appeared as a flaming jewel of light, and around Him was a rainbow or halo of vibrant, shimmering emerald-green. Looking at Him was like looking at the sun with unblinking eyes.

Out from the throne come flashes of lightning and sounds and peals of thunder. And there were seven lamps of fire burning before the throne, which are the seven Spirits of God; and before the throne there was something like a sea of glass, like crystal.

(Rev 4:5-6)

If John's vision is any indication, when God takes you to heaven, flashes of lightening will blind your eyes and your ears will be paralysed by thunder. When you recover from that, you'll see the Spirit of God as seven towering, skyscraper-like flames evenly spaced before God's throne. Stretching out from that throne will be an endless "sea" or floor made from a light-reflecting substance like crystal. In Daniel 7:10, Daniel described that floor's reflection of God's glory as a river of fire flowing from the throne of God.

According to Isaiah 6, your senses will also be assaulted by the chant of the angelic bodyguards, whose message, "Holy, Holy, Holy, is the Lord God Almighty," will reverberate over the thunder. Heaven will be bright and heaven will be loud.

In Revelation 5, John's vision of heaven reached a glorious crescendo. Imagine the scene, if you can.

Then I looked, and I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders; and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, "Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing." And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea, and all things in them, I heard saying, "To Him who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever."

(Rev 5:11-13)

What is heaven like? God's throne room is a tidal wave of light: the radiance of a thousand suns, the brilliance of a million diamonds, with rainbows and living pillars of fire all reflected from the crystal ocean before God's throne.

In verse 11, John said myriads of myriads, or ten thousand times ten thousand angels will be singing when you see God. If you multiply it out, that's one hundred million angels. Every time an angel appears in the Bible, men fall over dead with fear. Angels are awesome beings, and I'm sure they sing really well and really loudly. God's throne room will shake with the thunder of their

voices. Compared to it, standing at the bottom of Victoria Falls will be like listening to the sound of a feather falling through the air.

Perhaps you have been at a sporting event and felt the adrenaline surge of seventy thousand human voices roaring in unison when the winning try or winning goal is scored. Imagine, if you can, one hundred million awesome angels singing, "Worthy is the Lamb."

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be an indescribable avalanche of beauty, light, and sound in perfect harmony. Heaven will be glorious beyond words.

9) Heaven will be going home

Do you know the sensation that sweeps you when you've been away for weeks, and you finally arrive home, unlock the front door, and walk into your house? "Whew, it's good to be home." That sense of relief and contentment (multiplied infinitely) is what heaven will be like. Heaven will be going home.

In 1 Peter 2:11, Peter called believers "aliens and strangers" on this earth. We don't really belong here; we belong with Christ. The older I get, and the older I get in Christ, the more I understand this. When Christ made us into new creatures at our salvation (2 Cor 5:17), He programmed us with software that isn't compatible with this world's operating system.³ This world is a hotel at which we spend a night; heaven is our home.

The Old Testament saints understood this. The author of Hebrews said of them, "They desire a better country, that is, a heavenly one. Therefore, God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them" (Heb 11:16). Notice how they were described at the end of Hebrews 11. This world was definitely *not* their home.

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, afflicted, ill-treated (men of whom the world was not worthy), wandering in deserts and mountains and caves and holes in the ground.

(Heb 11:37-38)

In Philippians 3:20, Paul wrote, "Our citizenship is in heaven, from which also we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ." We are temporary residents here, not permanent ones, let alone

³ It's a shame that some Christians lose sight of this and become so infatuated with this world. It is as ridiculous as a soccer player falling in love with the warm-ups before the match, rather than delighting in the match itself.

citizens. What does that mean? For a Christian, while death has genuine sadness, it also means we are finally where we belong: we are home.

What will heaven be like?

It will be new, full, forever, like being a bride, and a time of reward and rest. It will be family love, better in unimaginable ways, glorious beyond words, and going home. But having said all that, we've left out one thing, the one thing without which heaven wouldn't be heaven.

10) Heaven will be seeing Jesus Christ

While we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord...[we] prefer rather to be absent from the body and at home with the Lord.

(2 Cor 5:6,8)

It has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because *we will see Him just as He is*.

(1 John 3:2, emphasis added)

There is Someone who died for you that you've never met. He died on a cross in your place, giving His life, suffering God's wrath at your sin for you. You've met Him in the Bible; you've talked to Him in prayer. You've thanked Jesus a million times over, but never face-to-face. Do you know what will be the best thing about heaven? Seeing Jesus. Heaven wouldn't be heaven without Jesus, would it?

What will heaven be like?

Heaven will be meeting Jesus, and saying to your Saviour, face-to-face,
"Thank you for dying for me."

If you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God...

When Christ, who is your life, appears, then you will also appear with him in glory.

(Colossians 3:1, 4)

I once heard a preacher say, "Some people are so heavenly minded, they are of no earthly good." Personally, I've never met anyone like that. I suspect the opposite is more true of Christians today: We are so *earthly* minded that we are of no *heavenly* good. The solution to this spiritual problem is Paul's instruction: "Set your mind on the things above."

But what are we to set our minds on? What will heaven be like? Heaven will be fantastically new, wonderfully full, and joyously forever. Heaven will be as exciting and as loving as being a bride all day, every day, forever. For the weary and battered, it will be a time of reward and rest. Heaven will be family love; it will be better—far, far better. Heaven will be indescribably glorious. It will be going home where we belong. But most of all, heaven will be seeing Jesus, our Saviour and Lord.