

Theology 101

Heaven

- I. Death and Beyond
 - A. One of the oldest questions mankind has sought an answer to is whether or not life exists beyond the grave - Job 14:14
 - B. The Bible clearly teaches that man lives on even though his body does not - Luke 16:19-31, Hebrews 9:27
 - C. The Bible also clearly teaches two destination await men, which we call Heaven and Hell - Matthew 25:46
- II. After a Christian Dies...
 - A. Upon death, the soul is liberated from the body and continues existing - II Corinthians 5:8
 - B. This places their soul in Heaven to await the Rapture/Resurrection - I Thessalonians 4:13-18
- III. ...But what about Old Testament saint? Did they go to Heaven?
 - A. There appears in the Scriptures to be a slight difference before the Cross as to where the righteous souls went after death.
 - B. Christ Himself gives us a glimpse of this in Luke 16:19-31.
 1. Note that the righteous Lazarus does not go to "heaven" as we see later in the New Testament, but instead to "Abraham's bosom".
 - C. This place is often called Paradise and was a temporary home until the Cross.
 - D. Christ Himself descended here upon death - I Peter 3:18-19
 - E. He then brought these saints with Him to Heaven at His Resurrection. - Ephesians 4:8-10
- IV. The Saved and their Future
 - A. Saints will be judged, not according to their sins, but in regards to their works and receive rewards - II Corinthians 5:10
 1. This is NOT in regards to salvation!
 - B. Saints will be with Christ in Heaven for the seven years of the Tribulation - John 14:1-3, I Thessalonians 5:9, Romans 5:9
 - C. Saints will return with Christ when He returns at the end of the Tribulation and establishes the Millennial Kingdom - Jude 14-15, Revelation 19:14
 - D. Saints will rule with Christ during the Millennial Kingdom - Revelation 20:4
 - E. Saints will enter into the Eternal State - Revelation 21:3-4
- V. The Nature of the Saint's Future
 - A. Being with Christ - II Corinthians 5:6
 - B. Absence of evil or trouble - Revelation 21:4
 - C. Fellowship - I Corinthians 13:12
- VI. Misconceptions about Heaven
 - A. We will have harps and halos while floating on fluffy clouds
 1. Bible says nothing at all about this.
 - B. Everyone gets to go to Heaven
 1. The Bible is very clear that all will not be in Heaven - Revelation 20:11-15

- C. Heaven isn't a real place
 - 1. Oh, yes it is! - John 14:1-2
- D. Heaven is a place we go to and never leave
 - 1. Yes, and no. If you've paid attention you'll see that saints are quite busy in their afterlife! We really do not enter into Eternity until the events of Revelation 21.