



World Christian Fellowship

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Heaven

07-What we will do in Heaven? Part 02

What we will not do in Heaven?

We will not sin.

Although the Bible doesn't specify what our individual responsibilities will be, it does provide a general description of our roles.

1. Worship

Heaven will be a place of eternal, loving, adoring worship throughout eternity.

Without interruption we will continually praise God.

2. Reign

A delegated reign

A perfect reign

A promised reign

A proportionate reign

3. Serve

The imagery of priestly service!

We will have duties to perform.

Revelation 1:6, *and has made us kings and priests to His God and Father, to Him be glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen.*

What do priests do?

They serve God.

Hannah dedicated her child, Samuel, to the Lord by taking him to the high priest and leaving him to serve at the house of God. The keynote of the priesthood was intimate service.

In the Old Testament we read that the priest had a unique relationship to God.

Israelite other than the priest could go near anything that symbolized the presence of God. Only the descendants of Levi could serve at the Tabernacle, and out of them only the descendants of Aaron could serve as priests.

Numbers 16 shows how serious this exclusionary service was. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram were Levites. They were not descendants of Aaron, but they nevertheless insisted on being priests, defying Moses. They and their families experienced

terrible judgment as a result. The priesthood was indeed exclusive. Only the high priest could enter the Holy of Holies--and then only once a year.

When Jesus Christ died on the cross, the veil of the Temple was rent from top to bottom and the Holy of Holies was exposed to everyone.

Matthew 27:51, *Then, behold, the veil of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom; and the earth quaked, and the rocks were split,*

By graphic illustration God was saying that all who believe in Christ could enter His presence.

So, in the New Covenant every believer is a priest!

We all have access to God. Peter calls us a royal priesthood.

1 Peter 2:9, *But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvellous light;*

Because we are kings and priests.

We will be walking into the Shekinah, the consuming presence of God. But now since Christ has made our way open, we can enter God's marvellous light.

Because we are "a people for God's own possession"

So, under the New Covenant every believer enjoys intimacy and access to God.

Hebrews 4:16, *Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

We boldly enter God's presence to commune with Him, and out of that intimate communion we serve Him.

There's no priesthood, no human intermediary between us and God.

1 Timothy 2:5, *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,*

In heaven we will serve as perfect priests, approaching not only the throne of grace, but also the throne of glory.

Now we can go no farther than the throne of grace. If we approached the throne of glory, we would be consumed because of our sin.

Revelation 21:3, *And I heard a loud voice from heaven saying, "Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them, and they shall be His people. God Himself will be with them and be their God.*

In heaven God will dwell among us and we will be His people. We won't ever need to cleanse ourselves by washing at a laver. We won't need to offer sacrifices. All that was completed in the past.

Isaiah 58:13-14, *“If you turn away your foot from the Sabbath, From doing your pleasure on My holy day, And call the Sabbath a delight, The holy day of the Lord honourable, And shall honour Him, not doing your own ways, Nor finding your own pleasure, Nor speaking your own words, ¹⁴ Then you shall delight yourself in the Lord; And I will cause you to ride on the high hills of the earth, And feed you with the heritage of Jacob your father. The mouth of the Lord has spoken.”*

God has always wanted those who represent Him to delight in serving Him. That is exactly what will happen in heaven. We will turn completely from our own pleasure and will call the sabbath rest of eternity a delight.

Therefore, He will make us to ride the heights. The Sabbath of heaven is indeed a rest, but it's not a rest of idleness. It's unwearied, unweakened, undistracted service of God.

The illustrations of priestly service

Revelation 7:9-14, *After these things I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could number, of all nations, tribes, peoples, and tongues, standing before the throne and*

before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, with palm branches in their hands,¹⁰ and crying out with a loud voice, saying, "Salvation belongs to our God who sits on the throne, and to the Lamb!"¹¹ All the angels stood around the throne and the elders and the four living creatures, and fell on their faces before the throne and worshiped God,¹² saying: "Amen! Blessing and glory and wisdom, Thanksgiving and honor and power and might, Be to our God forever and ever. Amen."¹³ Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, "Who are these arrayed in white robes, and where did they come from?"¹⁴ And I said to him, "Sir, you know." So he said to me, "These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.

Those are the ones redeemed during the tribulation period, the seven-year period of judgment on the earth after the rapture of the church.

Revelation 7:15-17, *Therefore they are before the throne of God, and serve Him day and night in His temple. And He who sits on the throne will dwell among them.¹⁶ They shall neither hunger anymore nor thirst anymore; the sun shall not strike them, nor any heat;¹⁷ for the Lamb who is in the midst of the throne will shepherd them and lead them to [living fountains of waters](#). And God will wipe away every tear from their eyes."*

There will be no tears, exhaustion, heat, hunger, or thirst in heaven. We will be in the presence of the Lamb, who is our shepherd and our guide, serving as intimate priests.

God will spread his tabernacle over us--we never be out of His presence. The Lamb is at the centre of everything.

The Greek word translated "serve" (*latreuo*) speaks of the service a priest renders to God.

In heaven we will not serve each other but we will serve God. We won't need to strengthen each other's weaknesses because we will all be perfect and like Christ.

Revelation 22:1-5, *And he showed me a pure river of water of life, clear as crystal, proceeding from the throne of God and of the Lamb. ²In the middle of its street, and on either side of the river, was the tree of life, which bore twelve fruits, each tree yielding its fruit every month. The leaves of the tree were for the healing of the nations. ³And there shall be no more curse, but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it, and His servants shall serve Him. ⁴They shall see His face, and His name shall be on their foreheads. ⁵There shall be no night there: They need no lamp nor light of the sun, for the Lord God gives them light. And they shall reign forever and ever.*

We will reign forever. We will serve as priests forever.

Although we don't know the specifics, we will serve God in some way. That suits our nature because God has built into man a creative drive to accomplish something productive. We derive pleasure from a job well done and knowing that others are

pleased with our service. How wonderful to serve God in a way that pleases Him!

Forever we will have the challenge of accomplishing something-
-and accomplishing it perfectly.

God won't make it automatically perfect and you will do it yourself.

Earthly service rewarded

Our service here on earth determines the nature of our service in heaven.

The service you will render then is directly proportional to how well you apply yourself here. That's your reward.

Believers' rewards aren't something you wear on your head like a crown, stripes on your white robe, more rooms in your mansion, or a bigger and faster chariot to drive.

Your reward in heaven will be your capacity of service. The greater your commitment to service here, the greater will be your capacity for service there.

1 Corinthians 4:5, *Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord comes, who will both bring to light the hidden things of*

darkness and reveal the counsels of the hearts. Then each one's praise will come from God.

When the Lord returns, each man will receive praise from God--and from God alone.

To Paul no person's judgment of him mattered, not even his own because even if he wasn't aware of any guilt, that didn't mean he was innocent. He knew the day would come when God will judge his motives and service and would reward Him.

Likewise, God plans to reward every believer. "Each man's praise will come to him" (v. 5). Every believer will receive a reward.

1 Corinthians 3:12-13, *Now if anyone builds on this foundation with gold, silver, precious stones, wood, hay, straw,¹³ each one's work will become clear; for the Day will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is.*

We will all be rewarded but rewarded differently based on the value of our service.

Some works will be the value of gold, silver, and precious stones.

Others will be more on the level of wood, hay, and straw.

Now wood, hay, and straw aren't evil, but they just aren't as valuable or durable. So, our reward will be the capacity with which we will be allowed to serve God in glory.

Scripture has much to say about rewards.

Daniel 12:3, *Those who are wise shall shine Like the brightness of the firmament, And those who turn many to righteousness Like the stars forever and ever.*

Daniel is saying that the basis of our reward is our faithfulness in proclaiming righteousness. The wisdom we manifest in this life will determine how we shine in eternity.

1 Thessalonians 2:19-20, *For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming? ²⁰ For you are our glory and joy.*

Part of our reward in heaven will be the joy of seeing those who are there because of our faithfulness.

1 Corinthians 9:25, *And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things. Now they do it to obtain a perishable crown, but we for an imperishable crown.*

Our reward will never diminish in value or die.

2 Timothy 4:8, *Finally, there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give to*

me on that Day, and not to me only but also to all who have loved His appearing.

The "crown of righteousness" is eternal righteousness.

The "crown of life" is eternal life.

The "crown of joy" is eternal joy.

So, heaven's crowns aren't something we will wear. They are what we will experience:

- ✓ eternal life,
- ✓ eternal joy,
- ✓ eternal service, and
- ✓ eternal blessedness.

1 Peter 5:2-4, *Shepherd the flock of God which is among you, serving as overseers, not by compulsion but willingly, not for dishonest gain but eagerly;³ nor as being lords over those entrusted to you, but being examples to the flock;⁴ and when the Chief Shepherd appears, you will receive the crown of glory that does not fade away.*

Just as the crown of life is eternal life, and the crown of rejoicing is eternal rejoicing, the crown of glory is eternal glory.

Revelation 22:12, *"Behold, I am coming quickly, and My reward is with Me, to render to every man according to what he has done."*

Your capacity for eternal joy, eternal glory, eternal service is related to what you are doing right now.

Are you building with gold, silver, and precious stones or wood, hay, and straw?

That ought to motivate our hearts.

We really ought to spend ourselves here so we can have the greatest possible capacity throughout eternity to glorify God.

4. Rest

We will rest in heaven.

Hebrews 4:1, *Therefore, since a promise remains of entering His rest, let us fear lest any of you seem to have come short of it.*

Hebrews 4:9, *There remains therefore a rest for the people of God.*

Matthew 11:28-29, *Come to Me, all you who labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.²⁹ Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and lowly in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.*

One of the promises the Lord gives those who believe in His Son is that we will know rest from our labours.

However, from what we have already studied, we know that doesn't refer to an absence of service or duty in heaven.

Luke 13:29, *They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God.*

Similarly, we will recline at a banquet table in the kingdom of God, but that doesn't mean we will just sit around all the time. When Hebrews 3-4 speaks of rest for the people of God, it means we will never be weary, weak, unfulfilled, or interrupted. It's a unique kind of rest.

Revelation 14:11, *And the smoke of their torment ascends forever and ever; and they have no rest day or night, who worship the beast and his image, and whoever receives the mark of his name.”* ¹²*Here is the patience of the saints; here are those who keep the commandments of God and the faith of Jesus.* ¹³*Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, “Write: ‘Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.’”* *“Yes,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them.”*

2 Thessalonians 1:7, *and to give you who are troubled rest with us when the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with His mighty angels,*

That rest means the more we serve, the more refreshed we will be.

The law of entropy, which causes everything to break down, will have ceased. There will be no debilitating forces. The more we fulfil our purpose, the more we will be refreshed. You will never expend any energy, be out of breath, or slow your step.

5. Be served

Luke 12:35-37, *“Let your waist be girded and your lamps burning; ³⁶and you yourselves be like men who wait for their master, when he will return from the wedding, that when he comes and knocks they may open to him immediately. ³⁷Blessed are those servants whom the master, when he comes, will find watching. Assuredly, I say to you that he will gird himself and have them sit down to eat, and will come and serve them.*

There's one other thing we will experience in heaven: being served by the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

Jesus used the imagery of a great lord returning to his palace where His slaves are waiting. Everything is prepared. They have been faithful to their lord. When he arrives, he calls them together. Rather than resting after his long journey or retiring for the night, the lord tells the slaves to sit down and allow him to serve them because of his gratitude for their service and readiness for his coming. He makes his slaves kings and

prepares a feast for them. Then, astoundingly, he doesn't order other servants to serve them--he serves them himself!

We won't serve each other in heaven--the Lord Himself will serve us. When He returns and finds that we have been faithful, He will serve us forever.

How could heaven have a greater reward than that?

It is wonderful to think of worshiping Him forever, of reigning with Him forever, of serving Him forever, and of resting forever. Yet most incredible of all is to realize that He will serve us forever. But it shouldn't surprise us too much. After all, He washed the disciples' feet because He loved them (John 13).

Conclusion

1. Looking toward heaven is evidence of genuine salvation.

A preoccupation with heaven is a good indication that you are saved.

Is heaven where your heart is?

Do you long to be in the heavenlies?

Do you long to commune with God?

Do you invest as much of your treasures there as possible?

Are your affections set on things above, not on earthly things?

A heart set on heaven is a heart set on God.

A heart set on God is a heart God has changed. The truest evidence of saving grace may well be a heavenly attitude.

2. Looking toward heaven produces Christian character.

Nothing compels us to be what God wants us to be more strongly than the truths about heaven. If you understand your inheritance and the rewards, glories, joys, and privileges of heaven, and you understand that Christ Himself will serve you forever out of gratitude for what you have done, that will compel you to excellence of character.

Communing with the Lord of heaven through prayer, meditation, and devotion purges the heart and produces obedience.

3. Looking toward heaven is the truest path to joy.

If you want to be miserable, focus on this world. If you want to be joyful, focus on heaven. David said that the light of God's face gladdens the heart.

Psalms 21:6, *For You have made him most blessed forever; You have made him exceedingly glad with Your presence.*

Paul said that the eternal weight of glory is far beyond anything we suffer now.

2 Corinthians 4:17, *For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory,*

4. Looking toward heaven protects us from temptation and sin.

One of Satan's main temptations is to get us to focus on earthly matters. But a believer whose mind is on heaven, who longs for full righteousness and the presence of God, is not easy prey for Satan.

5. Looking toward heaven maintains the vigour of our spiritual service.

If you run slowly in the Christian race, contributing little in terms of Christian service and financial giving, you obviously have little regard for the promised prize.

If you properly valued the heavenly prize, it would compel you to give of yourself and your resources. Fervency springs from a vision of heaven's reward.

6. Looking toward heaven honours God before all.

When your heart is set on heaven, you demonstrate your love for God. Your faithful service gives the people who see you a high view of God--they see God not only as all demanding, but as all worthy. Dwell on the heavenlies and you will honour God.

Dwell on the earthly things and you will dishonour God by implying they are more valuable than He is.

7. Looking toward heaven repays God.

God always sets His heart on us. Therefore, it's only fair that we set our hearts on Him! There's certainly nothing in this world worthy of such attention.

Psalms 17:15, *As for me, I will see Your face in righteousness; I shall be satisfied when I awake in Your likeness.*

Will anything less than that satisfy you?