

# GOD HAS SPACE FOR YOU

## Question: What happens when a believer dies?

Death: The subject no one wants to talk about but everyone wonders about. Think of all the euphemisms we use when we must talk about death or dying: he's passed on, with the angels, deceased, with God, in heaven, away, gone, or passed into the great unknown, etc.

There's nothing wrong with euphemisms; we use them for many things, but where death is concerned we use them because death intimidates us. Why? Because it is inevitable; it happens to everyone. As the old saying goes, "No one gets out of this world alive." It also means we face "The Great Unknown" since death is a mystery.

Scripture promises, the believer in Christ, eternal life as in John 5:24, "*I tell you the truth, who-ever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be condemned.*" Heaven, upon death, is promised to believers in Philipians 3:20, "*But our citizenship is in heaven.*" We can agree, I think, that this old world is full of hardships, dangers and disappointment and peace eludes us. Peace, joy and the presence of God are promised to those who believe. What a wonderful change from this world of sin, sorrow and selfishness.

What does the Bible say about heaven? Revelation 2:27 says we will rule with Christ. Revelation 21:1 says there will be a new heaven and a new

earth to be explored. There will be no evil in heaven, no pain, no heartache and we will bask in the presence of our Heavenly Father and our Savior, Jesus Christ. If you love him now you will love him even more then.

To get to heaven requires passing through the door of death. Yes, that word we don't want to say or even acknowledge. Heaven, everyone wants to go there, but no one wants to die to get there. But one thing we all know, we all will die.

So, what does happen after death? Jesus said to the repentant thief on the cross, "*I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise (heaven).*" Luke 23:43. Paul in II Corinthians 5:7 points out: "*For we walk by faith, not by sight. We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord.*" (KJV)

At the moment of death our spirit enters heaven. An angel or Jesus Christ himself will usher you into heaven and then into the very presence of God. Death is not painful since it is experienced by your spirit not your physical body. The process of dying may cause suffering as in cancer patients or those with other debilitating diseases. Even when an extremely painful act brings about your death, the physical body goes into shock and there is no pain. Even if a person is in a coma the spirit may be far more aware of coming death than any of us may know. There are many anecdotes from those who've been through "near death experiences" that relate their spiritual awareness.

Each one of us will face death in our own individual way. Some things worry us. A friend of mine said, "It's not the dying that bothers me, but leaving loved ones behind." But we must leave our loved ones in God's sufficient care since our times are in his hands. Another thing many fear is dying alone, however the believer is never alone. Jesus said, "*And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.*" Matthew 28:20. What Jesus goes through with us we do not have to fear. And one thing you can be sure of, when you cross that great divide you will find you are more alive then than all the time you spent on this earth! The best is yet to come!

For further reading: *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper and Cec Murphy

For further study:

Psalm 23:6  
Proverbs 14:32  
Isaiah 35:10  
Isaiah 51:11  
Matthew 13:43  
Mark 12: 26, 27  
John 14  
I Thessalonians 4:17  
II Timothy 1:10  
Revelation 20  
Revelation 21

*Let us not become weary in doing good,  
for at the proper time we will  
reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore,  
as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially  
to those who belong to the family of believers.  
Galatians 6:9-10*



## QUOTE SPACE

There is nothing stronger in the world than gentleness.  
Han Suyin

## THE FUNNY SPACE

An invisible man married an invisible woman. Nobody could figure out what they saw in each other. The kids were nothing to look at either.

A husband read an article to his wife about how many words women use a day...30,000 to a man's 15,000. The wife replied, "The reason has to be because we have to repeat everything to men...the husband then turned to his wife and asked, "What?"

A couple drove down a country road for several miles, not saying a word. An earlier discussion had led to an argument and neither of them wanted to concede their position. As they passed a barnyard of mules, goats and pigs, the husband asked sarcastically, "Relatives of yours?"  
"Yep," the wife replied, "in-laws."

Ever wonder why you never see the headline, "Psychic Wins Lottery"???

## SPACE FOR YOU

This newsletter exists for you, the reader in cyberspace. My wish is to create a space of interest, of fun, and of practicality. And I'd like to hear from you. Do you have a hard question you'd like an answer to? Do you want to contribute your 2 cents worth about this newsletter? Click here: [bmluke@comcast.net](mailto:bmluke@comcast.net) and tell me what you'd like me to know about you, about what you'd like included, and about what you don't like. I'm waiting to hear from you.

## SPACE FOR TIPS

### Baking Soda Uses

- After emptying the garbage, sprinkle some baking soda on the bottom of the garbage can; this will neutralize the food odors.
- To remove rust stains from counter tops, etc, cut a fresh lemon in half and sprinkle on a little baking soda and scrub the spot.
- At least 2 teaspoons full of baking soda in lukewarm bath water helps for chicken pox. It soothes the itchy spots.
- Simply mixing a pinch of baking soda in daily contact cleaner helps prevent build up on your contacts.
- Sprinkle baking soda on the bottom of the cat's litter box to help eliminate odors. Do this every time you change the litter box.



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