

The Believer and His Future

Introduction

- A. Of the many things that seem uncertain in this life -- **the content of the future** is usually close to the top of the list. We simply do not know what will happen to us.
- B. God has given the Christian many wonderful promises about the future, Heb 13:5; Rom 8:28; II Cor 9:8; Phil 4:19. Beyond these great promises there are a few that tell us something certain about our future that is overwhelming in assurance and joy. **It has to do with stepping into the presence of our Savior. While He will be forever our joy and the object of our worship and thanksgiving -- there are some benefits that will automatically become ours.**

I. In That Moment of Death -- He Will be With Us To Take Us To Be With Him.

And if I go and prepare a place for you, **I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.** John 14:3

Comment: What every believer has longed for all of life -- and has never known as fully as desired -- **will come to pass at the moment of death.** What a glorious future we have. What an honor to know that from the time of our death we will be with the Savior -- **because He wants it like that. We must stop dreading the future.**

II. In That Moment What is Mortal Will be Swallowed Up of life.

For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that **what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. Now it is God, who has made us for this very purpose and has given us the Spirit as a deposit, guaranteeing what is to come.** II Cor 5:4,5

Comment: We do not know how wonderful this experience will be. We do not know how deeply our "mortality" has affected us. However, we do know from these verses that what causes us to "groan" is our mortality -- and when we stand in the presence of our Savior -- that mortality with its groaning will be "swallowed up by life." We will "groan" no more. **Note: God has made us for this very purpose. And, the presence of the Holy Spirit in our life is the guarantee that it will come to pass!**

III. In That Moment We Will Be Holy and Blameless Before Him.

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ loved the church and **gave himself up for her** to make her holy, cleansing her by the washing with water through the word, and **to present her to himself as a radiant church, without stain or wrinkle or any other blemish, but holy and blameless.** Eph 5:25-27

Comment: Here we are assured that the provision the Lord Jesus made for us in His death is sufficient to so cleanse us that we will be **holy and blameless** when we stand before Him. Not one of us know now what it means to be "holy and blameless" in our daily experience -- **but we will in the day He comes for us.**

IV. In That Moment We Will Be Without Blemish and Free From Accusation.

But now he has reconciled you by Christ's physical body through death **to present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation.** Col 1:22

Comment: Again the emphasis in this verse is upon the work of the Lord Jesus in the death. He died for us. He took our sin with its judgment upon Himself -- so He could **"Present you holy in his sight, without blemish and free from accusation."**

V. In That Moment We Will Receive a Crown of Righteousness.

Now there is in store 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 longed for his appearing.** II Tim 4:8

Comment: The "crown of righteousness" may be likened to the "pass" or "badge" given to one -- which entitles that person free access to a building, a complex of buildings, or an organization. **What made this possible is the death of our Savior.** The benefits that will be ours throughout eternity can all be traced back to those six hours the Lord Jesus suffered in our place on the Cross. **What a moment it will be for you, when the Lord Jesus Himself, will give you the crown of righteousness!**

VI. In That Moment We Will Receive a Rich Welcome into the Eternal Kingdom.

And you will receive a rich welcome into the eternal kingdom of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. II Peter 1:11

Comment: Too often, we as believers, look upon ourselves as some kind of terrible criminal, that has recently been pardoned. While there is truth in that attitude, when we think of how we were before salvation, that is not true for us now. Our Savior is looking forward to **giving us a welcome into His kingdom. We must thank Him for that day.**

VII. In That Moment We Will Be Presented Without Fault to His Great Joy.

To him who is able to keep you from falling and **to present you before his glorious presence without fault and with great joy.** Jude 24

Comment: The Lord Jesus is looking forward to our death. He is waiting to present you to Himself -- with great joy -- and faultless in His sight.

Conclusion: These verses clearly teach us that we must change our attitude toward our death. While we may dread what our future may hold by way of suffering -- there is **nothing to dread in our death or our future after death.**

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