

“RECOGNITION IN THE AFTERLIFE”

5/19/2024 AM

INTRODUCTION:

A. Read the text: *Phil. 1:21-24*.

B. The afterlife, to some degree is a mystery.

1. Since we will not live forever, we ask questions about death.
 - 1) What happens at death? Is there really a heaven or hell?
 - 2) When the Lord comes again, what kind of body will we have?
 - 3) Will we know each other in heaven?
2. The last question is the one that we want to address in this lesson.

C. We will examine three points:

1. Proofs that recognition in the afterlife is true.
2. An objection that is often raised
3. The blessings of recognition in the hereafter

I. PROOF OF RECOGNITION.

A. We do not lose our identity in death.

1. God is the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (*Exo. 3:6*).
 - 1) Notice the words: “I am.” This is a present tense verb. At the time God was speaking, He *was* the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.
 - 2) Although dead for many years, they had not lost their identities.
2. At the resurrection the same person who went into the grave shall come up out of the grave (*John 5:28-29*).

B. We do not lose our memory at death.

1. In the account of the rich man and Lazarus, Abraham told the rich man to “remember” (*Luke 16:25*).
2. The rich man remembered things about his home.
 - 1) He had a father who had a house (*Luke 16:27*).
 - 2) He remembered that he had five brothers (*Luke 16:28*).

C. Examples of recognition:

1. The rich man recognized both Abraham and Lazarus (*Luke 16:23*).
2. On the Mount of Transfiguration, Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus (*Matt. 17:3-4*).
3. Jesus’ words to the thief (*Luke 23:43*).
4. David’s words concerning his son who died (*2 Sam. 12:23*).

D. Additional verses:

1. *Matthew 8:11*.
2. *1 Thess. 2:19-20*.

II. AN OBJECTION TO RECOGNITION.

A. Stated: If we are able to recognize each other, then we will realize that some of our loved ones, or brethren did not make it. How will we have joy knowing they are lost?

B. Answer:

1. Two things we know for sure.
 - 1) There will be recognition in the hereafter.
 - 2) There will be joy and no sorrow in heaven (*Rev. 21:4*).
 - 3) God has taken care of that.
2. The explanations of our joy have been many.
 - 1) Happiness will overcome the sorrow; The remembrance of loved ones will be gone.
 - 2) Actually, we do not know how, but we know it is true because God will provide the way for complete happiness.

III. THE BLESSINGS OF ETERNAL RECOGNITION.

A. The anticipation of recognition

1. All of us have lost people who were close to us.
2. We lost them, but we anticipate seeing them again.
 - 1) This thought helps us to bear the loss.
 - 2) One person said: "It is not good-bye, only farewell for a time."

B. The assurance.

1. This was Paul's assurance to the Thessalonians (**1 Thess. 4:13-14**).
 - 1) Those who are asleep have died.
 - 2) If we are living when Jesus returns, we will have a reunion.
2. We live in anticipation of this event. David is now reunited with his son.
3. Jesus died before the thief, but they met again in Paradise that day.

C. **1 John 2:25.**

IV. CONCLUSION.

A. Heaven will NOT be a place that is filled with those who are strangers to us.

B. We will recognize one another and find joy in one another's presence.

C. I hope the things that we have studied will make us sing some of our hymns with a little more enthusiasm.

1. "When We All Get to Heaven" – what a day of rejoicing that will be.
2. The song:

"In The Morning Of Joy"
 O the bliss of that morn,
 When our loved ones we meet!
 With the songs of the ransomed
 We each other shall greet,
 Singing praise to the Lamb,
 Thro' eternity's years...!