

After death?

I. Introduction

As for me, my life has already been poured out as an offering to God. The time of my death is near. ⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, and I have remained faithful. ⁸ And now the prize awaits me—the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on the day of his return. And the prize is not just for me but for all who eagerly look forward to his appearing. II Tim 4:6

II. Options for what happens after death -

A. Atheist say that after death there is nothing-

B. Everyone goes to heaven-

For a time is coming when people will no longer listen to sound and wholesome teaching. They will follow their own desires and will look for teachers who will tell them whatever their itching ears want to hear.⁴ They will reject the truth and chase after myths. II Tim 4:3

C. What people believe about heaven and hell-

1. Only one way, one truth and one path to heaven and we have it-

I am the way, the truth, and the life, no one comes to the Father except through me. Jn 14:6

"God is greater" or "God is [the] greatest". Allahu Akbar, There is no God but Allah, and Mohammed is his prophet

2. Why people think that they are going to heaven-

B. What about us?

1. Biblical Christians-

The master was full of praise. 'Well done, my good and faithful servant. You have been faithful in handling this small amount, so now I will give you many more responsibilities. Let's celebrate together!' mat 25:21

2. Deceived Christians-

Not everyone who calls out to me, 'Lord! Lord!' will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. ²² On judgment day many will say to me, 'Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.' ²³ But I will reply, 'I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God's laws. Mat 7:21

'These people honor me with their lips, but their hearts are far from me. ⁹ Their worship is a farce, for they teach man-made ideas as commands from God. Mat 15:7

3. For those looking for information-

If you search for him with all your heart and soul, you will find him. Deut 4:29

"I love those who love me; And those who diligently seek me will find me. Prov 8:17

D. The good news for biblical Christians -

Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. ² There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you?³ When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. Jn 14:1

III. The judgement we will face-

A. We all will face a judgement-

Each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment. Heb 9:27

Pay careful attention to your own work, for then you will get the satisfaction of a job well done, and you won't need to compare yourself to anyone else. ⁵ For we are each responsible for our own conduct. Gal 6:4

1. Our sense of justice demands a judgement for good and for evil-

God blesses those who hunger and thirst for justice, for they will be satisfied. Mat 5:6

2. God is a holy and a just God-

Your throne, O God, endures forever and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. ⁷ You love justice and hate evil. Ps 45:6

The LORD is slow to get angry, but his power is great, and he never lets the guilty go unpunished. Nahum 1:3

For the person who keeps all of the laws except one is as guilty as a person who has broken all of God's laws. Jam 2:10

B. What judgment will I face?

1. Judgement for those who have heard about Jesus-

For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. ¹⁸ "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son. ¹⁹ And the judgment is based on this fact: God's light came into the world, but people loved the darkness more than the light, for their actions were evil. ²⁰ All who do evil hate the light and refuse to go near it for fear their sins will be exposed. ²¹ But those who do what is right come to the light so others can see that they are doing what God wants. Jn 3:16

God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can't take credit for this; it is a gift from God. ⁹ Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it. Eph 2:8

2. The judgement for those who have never heard of Jesus-

Even Gentiles, who do not have God's written law, show that they know his law when they instinctively obey it, even without having

heard it. ¹⁵ They demonstrate that God's law is written in their hearts, for their own conscience and thoughts either accuse them or tell them they are doing right. ¹⁶ And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life. Rom 2:14

They know the truth about God because he has made it obvious to them. ²⁰ For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Rom 1:19

3. The judgement of sinners-

I saw a great white throne and the one sitting on it. The earth and sky fled from his presence, but they found no place to hide. ¹² I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne. And the books were opened, including the Book of Life. And the dead were judged according to what they had done, as recorded in the books. Rev 20:11

4. Judgement of Christians for Jesus' works in and through us-

No one can lay any foundation other than the one we already have—Jesus Christ. ¹² Anyone who builds on that foundation may use a variety of materials—gold, silver, jewels, wood, hay, or straw. ¹³ But on the judgment day, fire will reveal what kind of work each builder has done. The fire will show if a person's work has any value. ¹⁴ If the work survives, that builder will receive a reward. ¹⁵ But if the work is burned up, the builder will suffer great loss. I Cor 3:11

In the same way, when you obey me you should say, 'We are unworthy servants who have simply done our duty. Lk 17:10

III. The path to heaven-

A. Admit we need a savior-

Once you were dead because of your disobedience and your many sins. ² You used to live in sin, just like the rest of the world, obeying the devil—the commander of the powers in the unseen world. He is the spirit at work in the hearts of those who refuse to obey God. ³ All of us used to live that way, following the passionate desires and inclinations of our sinful nature. By our very nature we were subject to God's anger, just like everyone else. Eph 2:1

B. Have faith in Jesus-

He is the STONE WHICH WAS REJECTED BY YOU, THE BUILDERS, but WHICH BECAME THE CHIEF CORNER *stone*. ¹² And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved. Act 4:11

My old self has been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me. So I live in this earthly body by trusting in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹ I do not treat the grace of God as meaningless. For if keeping the law could make us right with God, then there was no need for Christ to die. Gal 2:20

C. We live for Jesus seeking personal holiness-

You must live as God's obedient children. Don't slip back into your old ways of living to satisfy your own desires. You didn't know any better then. ¹⁵ But now you must be holy in everything you do, just as God who chose you is holy. ¹⁶ For the Scriptures say, "You must be holy because I am holy." I Pet 1:14

C. Test ourselves to see if we are going to heaven-

Test yourselves *to see* if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you—unless indeed you fail the test? II Cor 13:5

IV. Summary and application-

God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, ²⁶ for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus. Rom 3:25