

What is Your Identity?

Exploring what the Bible has to
say about Your Identity

Session 6

A New Future

1

Our Former Future

As a result of our sin and rebellion, we were cut off from God. We were under the judgment of that sin.

The wages of our sin is death. Death means separation. The 1st death is separation from physical life which is a picture of what is to come. The 2nd death is separation from God and all that it is good.

God prepared “Hell” for the Angelic realm that rebelled against Him. Since mankind joined that rebellion, we share that same fate.

2

Our Former Future

Jesus warned more about the consequences of Hell more than He did about the glories of Heaven. It is a place of pain and suffering as God's wrath is poured upon sin. There is nothing good there – no pleasure, relief, joy, love, forever and ever.

This is the future of everyone if God did not intervene in the affairs of men.

3

A Serious Choice

God is Love and does not delight in the destruction of the wicked (Ezekiel 33:11; 2 Peter 3:9; Titus 2:11). He desires all men to come to repentance (1 Timothy 2:4). Love and worship are choices. We choose to love and worship God.

God made the initial choice to love mankind when we were unlovely in our sin. He chose to do what we could not. His love moved Him to send Jesus to pay the debt for our sin and open a way of restoration.

4

A Serious Choice

This brings man to a crossroad. Every person must make a choice to turn to God in salvation or walk away. God gives man the opportunity to make choices, but we must bear the consequences of those choices. For those who accept God's gift of salvation are given a new future.

5

A Different Judgment

The unsaved will stand before God in the Great White Throne Judgment. Their lives will be judged to reveal their sin and rejection of God (Revelation 20:11-15). The unbelievers will be confirmed in their sin and separated from God as they are cast into the Lake of Fire.

Those in Christ have a different judgment. Our lives will also be evaluated. This time it is not to confirm our sin as Jesus dealt with that on the cross. It is to try our lives to evaluate if we lived for God or lived for self. This is the Bema Seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10).

6

A Future Reward

At this judgment we will receive the rewards for serving and living for Christ. Motivations matter! Our service here must be more than just performance. Jesus taught that the Pharisees had their reward for they did their works for the applause of men.

The believer's life will be tried (1 Peter 1:7) and the things that have been done for Christ will remain. The Bible speaks of many different types of rewards (crowns). Some of these seem to be tangible, while others a spiritual.

7

A New Relationship

God wants people to make the choice to love and worship Him. He desires that we come to know Him. This is more than knowledge about Him, but to experience a relationship with Him.

To be a True Christian is more than going through a series of rituals or traditions. It is more than just acknowledging the historical realities of Jesus and the cross. Even the Devil knows these things (James 2:19).

God wants us know Him by experience.

John 17:3

And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.

8

A New Relationship

Heaven is knowing God. We will have all eternity to get to know God, fellowship, and worship Him.

We will rejoice as we live in the love, joy, and peace that He provides.

This relationship with God will be perfect and beyond anything we have experienced in this lifetime.

We will have renewed and deepened relationships with fellow believers. All the hurts and divisions will have been removed. No more doctrinal differences as we will know Truth. We will stand unified in Christ!

9

Perfectured / Glorified

We will receive new bodies that will be free from sin and its consequences. The process of being transformed into the image of Christ will be completed and we will be like Him!

1 John 3:2

Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

Ephesians 5:17

That He [Jesus] might present her to Himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish.

10

Exalted

We who were made lower than the angels will rule and reign in God's Kingdom (Psalm 8). We will be coheirs with Jesus.

Romans 8:16-17

The Spirit Himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷ and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and joint heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with *Him*, that we may also be glorified together.

God's great love, grace, and mercy will allow us to rule and reign with Christ.

11

So What ...

Our citizenship is in Heaven. We are told of some of the amazing things in Heaven – streets of gold, all sorts of angelic beings, believers of all ages.

We are also told that God is going to create a New Heavens and Earth. We are going to have a role in that New Creation.

1 Corinthians 2:9

But as it is written: “Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, Nor have entered into the heart of man The things which God has prepared for those who love Him.”

Do NOT let the world define who you are! Let your identity be found in Jesus! He loves you, saved you, gifted you with a multitude of spiritual blessings, and has given you an NEW future. Let's commit ourselves to live for Him!

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