

## **The Facts of Life**

### **The Answers to the Questions!**

*“Everything that goes into a life of pleasing God has been miraculously given to us...” The Message*

### **“Heaven is a Place for Eternity” Part 3**

#### **“Claiming our Citizenship”**

*“But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for Him to return as our Savior.” Philippians 3:20 NLT*

#### **A. Let’s review...**

1. Death is inevitable for all of us.

*“And just as each person is destined to die once and after that comes judgment,” Hebrews 9:27 NLT*

2. Death is viewed differently based on our preparation for eternal life.

*“He will give eternal life to those who keep on doing good, seeking after the glory and honor and immortality that God offers. But He will pour out His anger and wrath on those who live for themselves, who refuse to obey the truth and instead live lives of wickedness.” Romans 2:7-8 NLT*

3. When we die in Christ, we all go to a literal place that might be called intermediate heaven or paradise.

*“And Jesus replied, ‘I assure you, today you will be with me in paradise.’” Luke 23:43 NLT*

4. God has placed a longing in all of us for what He has planned for our future.

*“But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland. That is why God is not ashamed to be called their God, for He has prepared a city for them.” Hebrews 11:16 NLT*

#### **B. In God’s plan, the next great event is the return of Christ...**

1. Jesus will come in the clouds for all to see.

*“And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30 NLT*

2. Jesus’ return was a centerpiece of the early church.  
*“Men of Galilee, they said, “why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into*

*heaven, but someday he will return from heaven in the same way you saw him go!” Acts 1:11 NLT*

3. Jesus would come and bring with Him those who died in Christ.

*“And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died. We tell you this directly from the Lord: We who are still living when the Lord returns will not meet him ahead of those who have died. For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.”*

*1 Thessalonians 4:13-18 NLT*

4. Jesus’ return has been the most talked about doctrine and the greatest element of hope in the Christian faith.

*“while we look forward with hope to that wonderful day when the glory of our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ, will be revealed.” Titus 2:13 NLT*

#### **C. No one knows when...**

1. No one knows what day or what hour that Jesus will return.

*“So you, too, must keep watch! For you do not know the day or hour of my return.” Matthew 25:13 NLT*

2. No one knows the day or the hour but we do know the signs.

*“Tell us, when will all this happen? What sign will show us that these things are about to be fulfilled?” Mark 13:4 NLT*

3. No one knows when but we do know it is near.  
*“So you, too, must keep watch! For you don’t know what day your Lord is coming. Understand this: If a homeowner knew exactly when a burglar was coming, he would keep watch and not permit his house to be broken into. You also must be ready all the time, for the Son of Man will come when least expected.” Matthew 24:42-44*

4. No one knows when so...we keep watch!  
*“Now learn a lesson from the fig tree. When its branches bud and its leaves begin to sprout, you know that summer is near. In the same way, when you see all these things, you can*

*know his return is very near, right at the door. I tell you the truth, this generation will not pass from the scene until all these things take place.” Matthew 24:32-34 NLT*

#### **D. His return will be glorious...**

1. He is coming with power and great glory!

*“And then at last, the sign that the Son of Man is coming will appear in the heavens, and there will be deep mourning among all the peoples of the earth. And they will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds of heaven with power and great glory.” Matthew 24:30 NLT*

2. He is coming and everyone will see Him!

*“Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on the clouds with great power and glory.” Mark 13:26 NLT*

3. He is coming and is very near!

*“Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.” Philippians 4:5 NLT*  
*“You, too, must be patient. Take courage, for the coming of the Lord is near. Don’t grumble about each other, brothers and sisters, or you will be judged. For look—the Judge is standing at the door!” James 5:8-9 NLT*

*“The end of the world is coming soon. Therefore, be earnest and disciplined in your prayers.” 1 Peter 4:7 NLT*

4. He is coming and we should stand up, lift up our heads because our redemption is drawing near!

*“Then everyone will see the Son of Man coming on a cloud with power and great glory. So when all these things begin to happen, stand and look up, for your salvation is near!” Luke 21:27-28 NLT*

***“So encourage each other with these words.”***

Digging Deeper...for all those interested in digging deeper into this topic, there are resources in the Well Read Bookstore to assist you.

*The God Questions* book at \$7.50 for follow up.

Plus, Well Read has additional materials upon request for the even more serious student!

**Coming soon:**

**Fact #6 –**

**November 20: Heaven is a Place for Eternity – Part 4**