

AFTER WE DIE – PERSONAL SEARCH

HEAVEN

“God himself will be with them, he will remove all of their sorrows, and there will be no more death, or sorrow, or crying or pain.”

The Bible, Revelation chapter 21 verse 3-4, NLT

“But someone may ask... what kind of bodies will we have?”

The Bible, 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verse 35, NLT

“Our earthly bodies, which die and decay, will be different when they are resurrected, for they will never die. They are weak now, but when they are raised they will be full of power. They are natural, human bodies now, but when they are raised they will be spiritual bodies.”

The Bible, 1 Corinthians chapter 15 verses 42-44, NLT

Christians often like to read Bible passages like these at funerals. They believe that, just as Jesus' dead body was raised to life again, so all people will be “resurrected”. Rather like the way that a beautiful flower will grow from a withered looking seed, so the new “spiritual body” will be more wonderful than the original body that died. The Bible says that nothing bad will be in heaven and that it is where God is.

1. Why do you think Christians like to read these Bible passages at funerals?
2. How do you think they may help those who are there?
3. What does the Bible say about what it is like in heaven?
4. What do you think about these beliefs?
5. What would you say to comfort someone who has experienced the death of someone they love?

JUDGEMENT

“Each person dies only once and after that comes judgement.”

The Bible, Hebrews chapter 9 verse 27, NLT

“I saw the dead, both great and small, standing before God's throne ... The dead were judged according to what they had done.”

The Bible, Revelation chapter 20 verse 12-13, NLT

Christians believe that faith in Jesus Christ brings 'eternal life' - God's gift of forgiveness, and a place in heaven. Words used to describe this are 'salvation' (being saved or rescued by faith in Jesus) and 'redemption' (the idea of wrongdoing being forgiven or 'paid for' by Jesus' death on the cross).

1. What do the words 'salvation' and 'eternal life' mean?
2. What does this mean to a Christian? How does it affect the way they live?
3. What do you think about these beliefs?
4. Is it a comfort to think of kindness being rewarded and of bad and selfish actions not escaping God's justice?
5. Should it affect the way people live?