



CGOM

Churches Of God Outreach Ministries
People working together to proclaim the Gospel

"The Churches of God Outreach Ministries provides leadership, information, and biblical teaching in spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Matthew 28:19-20"

1-800-611-8080 / www.cgom.org
PO Box 54621, Tulsa, OK 74155-0621

Mini Study

Will You Go To Heaven?

Blessed are the gentle for they shall inherit the earth (Matthew 5:5)

Unless your righteousness exceeds that of the Scribes and Pharisees, you shall not at all enter into the Kingdom of Heaven (v.20)

Some Bible students find difficulty in reconciling these two sayings of Jesus. What is it to be - heaven, or earth? The average Christian's expectation is that upon death he or she goes to heaven. After that it's a bit fuzzy. Endless adoration of God. Listening to angelic choirs. Playing a harp for eternity. Talk to non-Christians and the reply is even fuzzier, ranging from a vacuum to a vague hope of 'something nice' - but again certainly not 'the other place'. What, then, is the reward of those who are 'saved'?

- for most in the Christian tradition - whether or not a committed Christian - death is the divider. When that inevitable event overtakes us, they believe, it's either *Heaven* or *Hell*, or for some, an intermediate state - *Purgatory*
- the Scriptures have a different take. When anyone dies (Christian, atheist, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, animist), they teach, *we are dead*. No conscious thought. No communication with the world left behind. No pain. Just 'at rest in peace'
- but there's more. For, said Jesus, everyone in their graves will be restored to life - resurrected. Every man, woman and child who does not, at death, have in them God's holy Spirit will wait - sometimes dead for thousands of years - to come to life again in the flesh
- those in whom is God's Spirit - and that is available only through Jesus - will be raised from the dead when Jesus, as promised, returns to earth as King of kings. They will be raised in a new spirit body - immortal - to work with Christ in his ongoing plan for mankind
- '*...returns to earth*'? Will he then take you back to Heaven? Or is there some other plan up his sleeve? In fact, his work on our planet is far from finished
- in the decade before his return earth will be in turmoil. The disaster movies haven't told the half. Millions - perhaps billions - will die from war, famine, disease, natural disaster. Few will survive. But beginning with this few Jesus and the resurrected saints will establish - *here on earth*, and for a thousand years - a new world order of peace, justice and prosperity for all their descendants. God hasn't given up on His creation!
- it's here on earth where the problems are - not in Heaven. It's here on earth God will fix them - not in Heaven. The Kingdom is now in Heaven. It will, in God's time, be on earth

Request the free articles:

A Message of Hope for Tomorrow's World and When Someone Dies

Published by:
The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
PO Box 54621
Tulsa, OK 74155-0621
©2006 The Churches of God Outreach Ministries
www.cgom.org

This article may be freely copied and distributed as long as it is done in its entirety, including this notice, and is given away free, without any charge to the recipient.

Write us for a free catalog of other free articles we have to offer.