

↪ **Sometimes, when the subject of the resurrection and the afterlife comes up we tend to come away with more questions than answers. "What will it really be like?" Part of that answer is: "There are some things we really don't know and will not fully understand until that time comes." The other part is that "as much as the Bible reveals to us, we should be interested and need to know it."**

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## 1. Mark 12:18-24

- ✓ The Sadducees were trying to make a point about the resurrection based on, what they considered to be, the ridiculous notion of the afterlife. They picked the wrong person to make that point with! Jesus clears things up quite well, but, interestingly enough, many of our false ideas of the resurrection are based on the wrong interpretation of what He said! Many think we will be angels in eternity based on the misreading of Jesus' words. We certainly will not be angels any more than they will return as humans, we are separate creatures. We will be like them only in the sense that they never marry, neither will we be marrying in eternity. Let's be careful not to make this say more than it does: It does say we will not be paired off, but it does not say that family will be any less important than it was in this life. There are many questions about our resurrection and our eternal state that the Bible doesn't answer outright because the answers are a matter of logic and reasoning based upon what the Bible teaches.
  - ✓ "Will I know my loved ones in the resurrection?" The Bible doesn't answer that directly, but it does give us this: "As the men watched, Jesus' appearance was transformed so that his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became as white as light. <sup>3</sup> Suddenly, Moses and Elijah appeared and began talking with Jesus," Matthew 17:2-4. How did Peter know Moses and Elijah? They were not wearing name tags! He just knew is the best answer. In Luke 16:24-25 how did he know that was Abraham? How did Abraham know about this man's life on earth? Eternity is going to a place where our knowledge and memory is far better than anything we experience here. Of course, we will know our relatives! Can you imagine knowing less than we know in this life? "Will my family be together and still have the same love for each other?" Yes and no are the answers. First, understand that the best this life has to offer, and the best feelings of this life are only a shadow and a faded picture of what is coming for us in eternity. Love will not be less in eternity; it will be more! Our capacity to love will be much more. No matter how you look at it, the existence we currently endure cannot in any way be compared to the greatness of what is coming for us. Yes, you will be together, and, no, you will not feel the same about your loved as you do here, you will have greater love than you ever did in this life.
  - ✓ "How old will we be?" Some feel we will be in our 30's since Jesus died and resurrected as a 33 year old. There is no support for that line of thinking. First of all, it derails the flow of logic concerning eternity to refer to things that only matter in time. Years and ages only matter in this life and not in the next one. A better way to think of ourselves is to think of the best qualities of all the ages: young equals endless energy, creativity, inhibition and old equals full of wisdom and know-how. Eternity will be like that for us.
  - ✓ "Will I still be short, tall, fat, skinny, white, black, brown, blonde, etc.?" Most of the things we don't like about our current bodies, we had to learn not to like them. Have you ever noticed that little kids don't care about most of those things, they had to be taught to care by watching sinful adults. The satanic kingdom we current inhabit is based upon uniformity, anything different is to be removed or changed, anything unusual is ugly. But God created us diverse; God doesn't at all equate unusual with ugly, when was the last time you took a look at animals like the elephant, rhino or moose? Things that are out of sync or out of the ordinary are deemed not beautiful by our standards, but God doesn't hold our standards. God values uniqueness and diversity; our current system of comparing ourselves to each other will not exist. Will we be fat, skinny, short, tall? I don't know, I'm just saying that it will not matter.
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**2. A question few are asking: "Will we be free to sin in eternity?"**

- ✓ The "Freedom to sin" is a contradiction in terms. "Freedom to be enslaved" no thinking person chooses to be that. Eternity will be a place of pure thinking unlike here. For instance: here we are tricked by the Devil and our sinful nature to think that sin can be fun, enjoyable, the better choice. In eternity, we will not ever think of sin as anything other than what it is: ugly and ignorant. Our natures here enslave us to wrong thinking, but in eternity we will be truly free and will not sin because we will not want to. We will not be lied to anymore: good things will take their rightful place in our understanding as will evil things. In eternity, sin will lose its motivation.

**3. Another question from our misunderstanding: "Aren't we supposed to be focused on this life and the world around us? Wouldn't a focus on eternity detract from that?"**

- ✓ As some would say, "So heavenly minded that we are of no earthly good." Actually, the opposite that is true: The Bible and history has proven that those who believed most strongly about Heaven and eternity made the greatest differences on earth. How about Jesus? His total focus was on what was to come.

**When we focus on eternity, it makes everything here seem trivial, rightfully so! Someone has said, "When the resurrection comes and we look back over our lives in this world, it will seem like only a night's stay in an inconvenient hotel."**

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