

I'm in Heaven

Philippians 3:20-21

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

Introduction

Country music singer Kenny Chesney sings a song that probably states what most people, some Christians included think.....

Preacher told me last Sunday mornin
Son, you better start livin right
You need to quit the women and whiskey
And carrying on all night

Dont you wanna hear him call your name
When youre standin at the pearly gates?
I told the preacher, Yes I do

But I hope they dont call today
I aint ready"

Everybody wants to go to heaven
Have a mansion high above the clouds
Everybody want to go to heaven
But nobody want to go now

I said, "Preacher maybe you didnt see me
Throw an extra twenty in the plate
Theres one for everything I did last night
And one to get me through today"

"Heres a ten to help you remember
Next time you got the good Lords ear
Say Im comin but there aint no hurry
Im havin fun down here"
Dont you know that

Everybody wants to go to heaven
Get their wings and fly around
Everybody want to go to heaven
But nobody want to go now

Someday I want to see those
Streets of gold in my halo

But I wouldnt mind waiting at least
A hundred years or so

Everybody wanna go to heaven
It beats the other place there aint no doubt
Everybody wanna go to heaven
But nobody wanna go now

Everybody wanna go to heaven
Hallelujah, let me hear you shout
Everybody wanna go to heaven
But nobody wanna go now
I think I speak for the crowd
Nobody want to go now

Read more: [Kenny Chesney - Everybody Wants To Go To Heaven Lyrics | MetroLyrics](#)

Although the song was written from a secular, non biblical basis, the sad reality is that the writer has captured the mentality of most of the Christian mindset.

We talk about heaven, talk about how wonderful it is and how much we look forward to it and even talk our lost relatives into heaven, but few are ready to go now, or really want to.

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new.

Steve Jobs

Read more at <http://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/quotes/s/stevejobs416855.html#rvwL6KPLmq0XvIDt.99>

Why would we not want to go to heaven

1. We are young and want to live a full life
2. We want to get married and have children
3. We want to enjoy the wonderful things of life
4. We don't want to leave our family
5. We would rather be fishing
6. We are afraid of death
7. We are unsure if we are saved
8. We believe our sins are too great for God to forgive

I. Focus on Eternity

²⁰ For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, ²¹ who will transform our lowly body that it may be conformed to His glorious body, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself.

our Citizenship

politeuma: a form of government, citizenship

Original Word: πολίτευμα, ατος, τό

Part of Speech: Noun, Neuter

Transliteration: politeuma

Phonetic Spelling: (pol-it'-yoo-mah)

Short Definition: a state, commonwealth

Definition: a state, commonwealth.

πολίτευμα, πολιτευματος, τό (πολιτεύω), in Greek writings from Plato down;

1. the administration of civil affairs or of a commonwealth (R. V. text (Phil. as below) citizenship).

2. the constitution of a commonwealth, form of government and the laws by which it is administered.

is

PRESENT ACTIVE INDICATIVE

huparchó: to begin, to be ready or at hand, to be

Original Word: ὑπάρχω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: huparchó

Phonetic Spelling: (hoop-ar'-kho)

Short Definition: I am, exist, am in possession

Definition: I begin, am, exist, am in possession.

HELPS Word-studies

5225 *hypárxō* (from **5223** /*hýparksis*, "under" and **757**/*arxō*, "begin, go first") – properly, *already* have (be in possession of); what *exists*, especially what *pre-exists*, i.e. is already *under* one's discretion (note the prefix *hypo*).

"My kingdom is not of this world. If My kingdom were of this world, then My servants would be fighting, that I might not be delivered up to the Jews; but as it is, My kingdom is not of this realm." ([John 18:36](#))

Colossians 3:1-5

3 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. ² Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. ³ For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. ⁴ When Christ *who is* our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

⁵ Therefore put to death your members which are on the earth:

Thomas Boston rightly said that...

The natural man's heart is where his feet should be, fixed upon earth; his heels are lifted up against heaven, which his heart should be set on.

His face is towards hell; his back towards heaven.

He loves what he should hate, and hates what he should love; joys in what he ought to mourn for, and mourns for what he ought to rejoice in; glories in his shame, and is ashamed of his glory; abhors what he should desire, and desires what he should abhor.

I Peter 1:3-5

³ Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His abundant mercy has begotten us again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴ to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled and that does not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, ⁵ who are kept by the power of God through faith for salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.

2 Cor 4:17

¹⁷ For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, is working for us a far more exceeding *and* eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen *are* temporary, but the things which are not seen *are* eternal.

[1 Chronicles 22:19](#) Now set your heart and your soul to seek the LORD your God;

Matt 16:23

But he turned and said to Peter, “Get behind me, Satan! You are a hindrance to me. For you are not setting your mind on the things of God, but on the things of man.”

1 John 2:15

¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world—the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life—is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

Matt 6:19

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal;

²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

Matt 6:33

But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.

EAGERLY WAIT

PRESENT MIDDLE INDICATIVE

apekdechomai: to await eagerly

Original Word: ἀπεκδέχομαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: apekdechomai

Phonetic Spelling: (ap-ek-dekh'-om-ahee)

Short Definition: I expect eagerly, wait for eagerly

Definition: I expect eagerly, wait for eagerly, look for.

HELPS Word-studies

553 *apekdéxomai* (from **575** /*apó*, "away from," **1209** /*déxomai*, "welcome" and **1557** /*ekdíkēsis*, "out of") – a triple compound (properly) meaning "welcome from and out of"; waiting that decisively "puts away" all that should remain *behind*.

The prefix (*apo*) intensifies the root (*dexomai*) to emphasize the idea of *separation*. **553** (*apekdéxomai*) therefore is used of looking *completely away from* this world – and *to* the upcoming redemption of our *body*.

Kenneth Wuest explains that **apekdechomai** is...

"...a Greek word made up of three words put together, the word, "**to receive**," (dechomai) which speaks of a welcoming or appropriating reception such as is tendered to a friend who comes to visit one; the word "off," (apo) speaking here of the withdrawal of one's attention from other objects, and the word "out," (ek) used here in a perfective sense which intensifies the already existing meaning of the word. The composite word speaks of an attitude of intense yearning and eager waiting for the coming of the Lord Jesus into the air to take His Bride to heaven with Him, the attention being withdrawn from all else and concentrated upon the Lord Jesus." (Wuest, K. S. *Wuest's Word Studies from the Greek New Testament*: Eerdmans)

Ro 8:19, 23, 25 For the anxious longing of the creation **waits eagerly** for the revealing of the sons of God...23 And not only this, but also we ourselves, having the first fruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves groan within ourselves, **waiting eagerly** for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our body....25 But if we hope for what we do not see, with perseverance we **wait eagerly** for it." (Note the object of the waiting is our future glory = future tense salvation = which will culminate when **Christ's returns**)

1 Corinthians 1:7 so that you are not lacking in any gift, **awaiting eagerly** the revelation of our **Lord Jesus Christ**,

Galatians 5:5 For we through the Spirit, by faith, are **waiting for the hope of righteousness** (ultimately fulfilled in Christ).

Hebrews 9:28 so Christ also, having been offered once to bear the sins of many, shall appear a second time for salvation without reference to sin, to those who **eagerly await Him**.

The great preacher F. B. Meyer once asked D. L. Moody, "What is the secret of your success?" Moody replied, "For many years I have never given an address without the consciousness that the Lord may come before I have finished." This may well explain the intensity of his service and the zeal of his ministry for Christ.

John Walvoord states

The earthly phase of our experience is purely temporary, the goal is to be with the Lord forever. Accordingly, our hope is not simply deliverance from sin in this life or growth in grace or the knowledge of Christ, but our anticipation leaps forward to that day when we will see our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Paul contemplates the fact that the day is coming when these hours of struggle for attainment and apprehension of Christ will be over, and we will stand as trophies of His grace in His presence.

WHO WILL **TRANSFORM**

metaschématizó: to change in fashion or appearance

Original Word: μετασχηματίζω

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: metaschématizó

Phonetic Spelling: (met-askh-ay-mat-id'-zo)

Short Definition: I change the outward appearance, transfigure, adapt

Definition: I change the outward appearance (the dress, the form of presentment) of something, transfigure; I adapt.

HELPS Word-studies

3345 *metasxēmatízō* (from **3326** /*metá*, "with, bringing about change, after-effect" and **4976** /*sxéma*, "outward shape") – properly, to *change outward appearance after a change*.

Our humble body - This describes the body which belongs to and also characterizes our humble state. It is this physical form that is subject to wrinkles, change, weakness, sickness, death and decay. This state is far removed from the purpose for which God created man (and his body).

Humble (5014) (**tapeinosis** is the noun derived from adjective **tapeinos**; cp the related derivative **tapeinophrosune**) means low, not high, not rising far from the ground. It speaks of one's condition as lowly or of low degree. It described what was considered base, common, unfit, and having little value.

CONFORMED TO HIS GLORIOUS BODY

summorphos: similar, conformed to

Original Word: σύμμορφος, ον

Part of Speech: Adjective

Transliteration: summorphos

Phonetic Spelling: (soom-mor-fos')

Short Definition: similar, conformed to

Definition: similar, conformed to.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: **4832** *sýmmorphos* – properly, *conformed*, by sharing the same *inner essence-identity (form)*; showing similar behavior from having the

same essential nature (used in Phil 3:10; this adjectival form also occurs in Ro 8:29 in many texts). [See 4833](#) (*symmorphoō*).

Spurgeon in his **Faith's Checkbook** has this devotional entitled **"This Body Fashioned Anew"**:

OFTEN when we are racked with pain and unable to think or worship, we feel that this indeed is “the body of our humiliation.” And when we are tempted by the passions which rise from the flesh, we do not think the word “vile” at all too vigorous a translation. Our bodies humble us, and that is about the best thing they do for us. Oh, that we were duly lowly, because our bodies ally us with animals, and even link us with the dust!

But our Savior, the Lord Jesus, shall change all this. We shall be fashioned like His own body of glory. This will take place in all who believe in Jesus. By faith their souls have been transformed, and their bodies will undergo such a renewal as shall fit them for their regenerated spirits. How soon this grand transformation will happen we cannot tell, but the thought of it should help us to bear the trials of today and all the woes of the flesh. In a little while we shall be as Jesus now is—no more aching brows, no more swollen limbs, no more dim eyes, no more fainting hearts. The old man shall be no more a bundle of infirmities, nor the sick man a mass of agony. “Like unto his glorious body.” What an expression! Even our flesh shall rest in hope of such a resurrection!”

ACCORDING TO THE WORKING

energeia: working, activity

Original Word: ἐνέργεια, ας, ἡ

Part of Speech: Noun, Feminine

Transliteration: energeia

Phonetic Spelling: (en-erg'-i-ah)

Short Definition: working, activity

Definition: working, action, productive work, activity; in the NT, confined to superhuman activity.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 1753 *enérgeia* (the root of the English term "energy") – *energy*; "power in action" (Wm. Barclay, *More NT Words*, 46). See 1754 (*energeō*).

HE IS ABLE

dunamai: to be able, to have power

Original Word: δύναμαι

Part of Speech: Verb

Transliteration: dunamai

Phonetic Spelling: (doo'-nam-ahee)

Short Definition: I am powerful, am able

Definition: (a) I am powerful, have (the) power, (b) I am able, I can.

HELPS Word-studies

Cognate: 1410 *dýnamai* (a primitive verb) – to show *ability* (power); *able* (*enabled* by God), *empowered*. See the cognate-noun, 1411 /*dýnamis* ("ability, power").

Sister Smith, the Sunday school teacher, asked her preschool class, "How many of you would like to go to Heaven?" All the children raised their hands except Freddie. The teacher asked Freddie why he wouldn't like to go to Heaven. His reply: "I'm sorry, but I can't. I'm here with my aunt, and my mother told me to come home right after Sunday school." Almost everybody expresses a desire and expects to go to Heaven, but nobody wants to go now!

As C.S. Lewis pointed out in his classic,

Mere Christianity:

A continual looking forward to the eternal world is not (as some modern people think) a form of escapism or wishful thinking, but one of the things a Christian is meant to do. It does not mean that we are to leave the present world as it is. If you read history you will find that the Christians who did most for the present world were just those who thought most of the next. The Apostles themselves, who set on foot the conversion of the Roman Empire, the great men who built up the Middle Ages, the English Evangelicals who abolished the Slave Trade, all left their mark on Earth, precisely because their minds were occupied with Heaven. It is since Christians have largely ceased to think of the other world that they have become so ineffective in this. Aim at Heaven and you will get earth “thrown in:” aim at earth and you will get neither. (*Mere Christianity*, p.134)