

Will We Recognize Each Other in Heaven?

Elders

John Deffenbaugh
Benny Haught
Tim Murray
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Deacons

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Carl Cobb
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Casey Flint
Jason Giebler
Josh King
Mike Kidwell
Darren Pierce
Bryan Reiboldt
Jim Scott
Peter Wald

Preacher

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Youth & Family Minister

Caleb Boggs

Worship Assemblies

10 a.m. Sunday
6 p.m. Sunday

Bible Classes

9 a.m. Sunday
7 p.m. Wednesday

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A question that appears to be of great concern to many people is the question of whether or not we will recognize each other in heaven. Of all the questions we entertain concerning the afterlife, this one is probably the one most frequently asked. And of course, having lost loved ones to death, I certainly understand why the answer to this question is so important. Since the deaths of both my mother and father, I am gripped with emotion when I imagine the reunion they will experience with my sister, their little girl, who died in childhood.

Who among us hasn't heard a preacher in a sermon or at a funeral speak of the reunion that will someday be experienced either at our passing or the return of the Lord? It's a comforting thought. But for some, it's a thought that creates concern and discomfort. For example, what about the godly woman who dies in the Lord, but whose husband would never make Jesus his Lord? Or what about the godly parents who die in the Lord, but whose children lived lives of rebellion against the Lord? How can the concept of recognition be a source of comfort for them? If recognition exists in the afterlife, how would this not be an eternal reminder and source of sorrow for those who have loved ones who were not granted access to heaven?

Friends, if that is a valid argument against recognition and for the lack of recognition in heaven, then consider the flipside. If we think that removing the ability to recognize one another removes the possibility of sorrow, then we are presented with the other alternative being a source of sorrow. For instance, how would you like to know that you have a loved one in heaven, but you'll never be able to know where or who they are? Would that not also be frustrating and a source of sorrow?

The effort to remove the ability to recognize one another doesn't resolve the issue of sorrow; it only shifts the source of potential sorrow to the lack of ability to recognize one another.

While I have far more questions than God chose to answer, please consider these points:

- There was recognition in the Hadean realm. The rich man recognized Abraham and Lazarus (Luke 16:23).
- There was remembrance in the Hadean realm. The rich man remembered he had five brothers (Luke 16:28).
- When Abraham was buried in the cave of Machpelah, the Bible says he was "gathered to his people." (Genesis 25:8). This does not refer to a shared burial plot, for Abraham's ancestors were buried elsewhere. Also notice that he was not gathered to all people, my people, or your people, but to *his people*. This suggests a reunion.
- Upon the death of King David's son, David found comfort in the thought that while he could not bring his son back, he could go to be with his son (2 Samuel 12:23).

For me, the bottom line is that I trust God. I may not know how God will "wipe away all tears" (Revelation 21:4), but I have full assurance, nothing doubting, that he will do just that. Is anything too hard for God (Jeremiah 32:27)?

Steve Higginbotham
preachinghelp.org

In Our Thoughts & Prayers



Kay Anderson, Carol Bessman, Fred Bukowich, Kim Cable, Vera Cornell, Lee Crabtree, Tammy Crawford, Lisa Daniels, Joe and Teresa Freund, Coral Haggard, Gael Jackson, Molly Jackson, Millie Lyons, Pam McMahan, Sherry Merrill, Lyn Pendergraft, Charlie Phillips, Mebyl Privett, Tina Rasbury, Connor Reiboldt, Lawrence Sanders, Rylee Schroeder, Harold Speir, Edith Toney.

Pete Griffin, father of Shana and Dorothy, has returned home but will continue to need physical therapy,

Every "One" Counts: When you give an extra dollar each Sunday, it goes to help someone in need. If you know someone who needs help, contact Jennifer Daniels or Natalie McInturff.



Devo and Donuts is back! Students, join us in the activities center at 7:00 Tuesday morning. Bring a friend and start your day with praise and fellowship.

When you can't be here when we **worship**, visit our website, Facebook page or YouTube channel to join us live or to catch up on what you missed.

If you have not filled out a green **involvement form**, please get one from the welcome desk. Complete it and return it to the box. We want everyone who is able to participate in one of these activities to be involved.

Today's Sermons



A.M. *Reprodigal?*
(Danny Boggs)

P.M. *Sing More: God is Worth It*
(Col. 3:16, Danny Boggs)

If you are not getting church notifications via **text**, such as cancellations due to the weather, and would like to be added, please let Danny know.

Lads To Leaders: There will be a **Bible Bowl** practice after services tonight in the fellowship room. Adults are encouraged to participate. Study Joshua 6 - 10 and come ready to have some fun and show what you are learning.



Today is your chance to cast your vote for the **new carpet**. Choices have been narrowed to three. In Room 7, you will find the 3 choices and a sample of the pew fabric. There are samples on each side of the table and an "in" and "out" door to aid with traffic flow. Pick the one you like best and leave your vote in the blue bucket when you exit.

If you have changes to the **online directory** or would like to access the directory, let Coralee know.

The bus for **Challenge Youth Conference** is leaving at noon on Friday. Remember our youth in your prayers as they travel and participate in this conference in Dallas.

Wednesday Night Family Meal is January 19. Please sign up on the board in the foyer if you plan to attend. The menu is "Breakfast for Dinner." The hostess groups of Carla Murray/Kayla Hayes and Bobbie Wolgamott/ Bethany Berner will be providing the meal this month.

Thursday morning **ladies Bible class** will begin a study of Jonah and Nahum this Thursday at 10:00 in the fellowship room. Join us and bring a friend with you!

February 4 will be an **Olympics-themed Family Game Night** at 6:00 in the activities center. Sign up on the bulletin board to bring food inspired by the cuisine of a specific country. You are asked to bring your favorite board and card games. There will be fellowship, food, and fun for everyone.

Hillcrest Members,
Thank you so much for all your prayers! They were very much appreciated. And special thank you for those who brought food and sent cards/text messages. Thoughts and prayers are appreciated!

Lisa Daniels

WORSHIP LEADERS

Today

This Wednesday

AM Opening Prayer: Jason Bryan
AM Closing Prayer: Todd Tyler
Communion Prayers: Caleb Boggs
PM Opening: Sam Collinsworth
PM Closing Prayer: Kaed Thomas

Announcements: Darren Pierce
Singing: Elijah Boggs
Invitation: Bill Reiboldt
Opening Prayer: Ethan Murray
Closing Prayer: Aaron Wilson

RECORDS

1-2-22

1-3-21

Bible Study	snow	105
AM Worship	133	137
PM Worship	snow	103
Wednesday	140	snow
Contribution	\$7,632.91	\$8,788.14
Budget	\$8,000.00	\$8,000.00