

## OUR NEW BODIES

Philippians 3:20-21 ... "For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 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."

How do you feel today? Are your joints stiff from hard work? Did you wake with a headache this morning; perhaps a migraine like my wife often has? Do you have dry skin or lots of moles and warts? Is your hair falling out, your kidneys hurting, your liver fatty? Does your stomach have ulcers? How is your eyesight? I do not know a single person who does not have at least one physical problem, and most have several.

Some people are in a hurry to get to the grave to end their physical problems, while others are afraid they may wake in eternity with the same problems they died with. I have some good news and some bad news. If you accept Christ as your Lord and Savior, you are promised a totally restored, perfectly healthy, entirely pain-free body after you die. However, if you reject Christ, I'm afraid your future is not as promising. The Bible tells us that only those who have been received into heaven will enjoy new bodies. We can only assume, then, that the rest will wake in hell with the same problems they had in life, including the afflictions and appearance of old-age, and they will live in that state for eternity. It is not a pretty picture, is it?

We are reminded in today's verses that we are just brief visitors on this condemned and dying planet. We are truly citizens of heaven if we are followers of Christ. When Christ comes for us, our sick and tired bodies will be transformed and share the same abilities as his, the body he received after his death on the cross. 1 John 3:2 reads: "Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed [when he returns], we shall be like Him..." We spend our lives following Christ and trying to be more like him. That process will be complete when he returns for us.

If you are worrying about getting to heaven just to find that you are only a spirit, floating around mindlessly on clouds and playing a harp forever, stop worrying. Remember, Christ came to earth as a man just like you and I; he is both God and man. When he ascended back to heaven 40 days after his resurrection, his disciples saw him rise bodily in front of them. He did not give up his manly appearance and convert to a spirit and disappear in a puff of smoke. The Bible tells us that he "sits" at the right hand of the Father. Spirits do not sit. And, when he returns to get us, he will appear as the man that he was before he left, and he will sit on the throne in Jerusalem as judge.

Your new body will be the body everyone remembers, only totally perfect without flaws or blemishes. No more tired bones, upset stomachs, headaches, or twisted ankles. No more pain, exhaustion, sadness or fear. You will need your new, powerful, and talented body to live on and work in the new earth. Remember, it is not only our bodies that will be restored and renewed, but the entire earth. You can play the harp if you wish, but most likely you will actually enjoy raising your own food and hiking the beautiful earth God intends to make for us after this earth has died.

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