



What is heaven like?

Last month I began answering a few of the questions the Sunday School students had about heaven. This month I'll tackle a few more. (Keep in mind that we don't know the answers to all our questions about eternity, because God hasn't told us all that we *want* to know about this "new game" called Eternal Life. He has, however, told us all that we *need* to know.)

"Will bullies on earth be bullies in heaven?"

This is an easy one: No! God tells us in Revelation 21:4 that the *"There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain because the old order of things has passed away."* All of those things are the result of sin, and there will be no sin in heaven - only forgiven sinners who had their sins wiped away through faith in Jesus who died and rose to forgive them. And those forgiven sinners will sin no more. In heaven there will be nothing to fear!

"Will people know us there?"

There are a couple things in God's Word that cause us to be able to say "Yes!" to that question. First, Jesus' disciples recognized Him after He had risen from the grave (just like all who believe in Jesus will do on the day He returns). Also, when Jesus gave the disciples a glimpse of the glory of heaven on the Mount of Transfiguration (recorded in Mark 9, Luke 9 and Matthew 17) they recognized Moses and Elijah even though they had never seen them before.

"What will we look like?"

Again, we get our answer from what Jesus looked like after He had risen from the grave. He was still recognizable as the same person the disciples had spent three years with. But, there was also something a little different about His appearance. He now had what the Bible refers to as 'a glorified body.' He had a physical body (you may remember He showed his disciples the nail holes and scars and also ate with them). But His physical body was now not subject to time and space constraints like ours are on earth. For example, Jesus now was able to enter a room without using the door. John (in chapter 20 of his gospel) tells how Jesus twice came and stood among the disciples who were gathered in a locked room. He didn't use the door. In His now 'glorified body' He didn't need to, He just appeared with them.

Thanks for asking,
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Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net