



Will we know everything when we get to heaven - like which 'conspiracy theories' are actually true? "

We get hit with so many lies and half-truths on a daily basis - many coming from places we expect will tell us the truth, like our government, our "news" media and social media. (Ok, maybe we expect exaggerations on social media, but not the others.) It can be a real challenge to know what really is true. The questioner followed with a couple examples, "Like, was our own CIA behind the shooting of President Kennedy? And was the coronavirus unleashed on purpose?"

That question is a great one! It really hits at a greater question of "Just what will we know when we get to heaven?"

When God describes eternity for us, (Read Isaiah 65 and Revelation 21) He describes it as a place where there will be nothing evil, nothing bad, no fear, no pain, no sadness, just perfect peace and joy in the visible presence of God the Father and His Son Jesus.

A passage I've heard referred to regarding what we will remember is Isaiah 65:17 where God is describing eternity and says, "*See, I will create new heavens and a new earth. The former things will not be remembered, nor will they come to mind.*"

But in the context of that passage, it appears that God is the one who will be not remembering the former things - not us. And the "former things" He's referring to are the sins and "troubles" of those people who serve Him as their God and King. In Hebrews 8:12 and 10:17 God tells us specifically that He will forgive our sins, and thus will remember no more those sins and lawless acts. Great news for us!

Revelation 21:4 adds this: "*He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning, nor crying, nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.*"

Does that mean we won't remember any "former things" from our life on earth? That doesn't seem likely to me. What makes more sense is that the things that will not be remembered are any things that would cause us pain or fear or sadness or anger. Our sins come to mind as a great example. The forgiveness Jesus died to give will have erased our sins and their memory, not just for God but also for all people who accept that forgiveness by repenting of our sins and placing their trust in Jesus.

My answer to the above question was, "I'm not sure about the specifics. What I am sure about is that if it would cause us fear or anger or sadness or pain - it won't be remembered, because there will be no fear, anger, sadness or pain in eternity. However, if you want to know about the specific examples you gave me, I just might be able to give you answers that have some pretty good odds of being correct... :)

Thanks for asking,
Pastor David

Send your questions to pastor@livingwordlutheran.net