

The Correspondent



SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM
www.collinsville-troycoc.org
(618) 667-6708

For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)

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Will We Know Each Other in Heaven?

-Renn Ferguson

Heaven will truly be a wonderful place, of that I have no doubt. However, there is much we do not know about heaven. This has lead Christians to have many questions about what it will be like. One of the most common questions is, “will we recognize each other in heaven?” To answer that question we of course should turn to God’s word.

The main passage that I always consider when discussing this topic is in Luke 16:19-31. In fact we considered this passage a few weeks ago when answering the question of “where do we go when we die?” This is the record of the rich man and Lazarus. Many people mistakenly say this is a parable but if we look at the language of our Lord in verses 19-20 we see that it is an actual event. Here Christ said, “There was a rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and who feasted sumptuously every day. And at his gate was laid a poor man named Lazarus, covered with sores” Christ does not use a figure of speech to bring this lesson. He states a solid fact that there was this particular rich man and a certain man named Lazarus. He is not fabricating an illustration to prove a point He is using an actual even to prove His point. Of course His point is not the same as ours today but, we can learn a lot from this true story. After both the rich man and Lazarus have died we see, “and in Hades, being in torment, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham far off and Lazarus at his side.” (v. 23) The rich man looked in his torment and saw both Abraham and Lazarus and knew exactly who they were. We also see toward the end of the account, “And he said, ‘Then I beg you, father, to send him to my father’s house— for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.’ But Abraham said, ‘They have Moses and the Prophets; let them hear them.’ And he said, ‘No, father Abraham, but if someone goes to them from the dead, they will repent.’ He said to him, ‘If they do not hear Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be convinced if someone should rise from the dead.’” (v. 27-31) So, not only did he know who Lazarus was but he also remembered his brothers on earth. Just before this he said, “And he called out, ‘Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus to dip the end of his finger in water and cool my tongue, for I am in anguish in this flame.’ But Abraham said, ‘Child, remember that you in your lifetime received your good things, and Lazarus in like manner bad things; but now he is comforted here, and you are in anguish.’” (v. 24-26) Not only do we see the fact that he recognized Lazarus, and his brothers but also that he remembers his life on earth and so does Lazarus.

From this passage we learn that we will recognize one another in heaven. We do not have to be unsure of that or wishfully hope that we will. The scriptures are very clear in teaching us this. When we finally enter heaven, being with our God and our loved ones will make all of the sacrifice and trials worth it.