

S.O.H.L. (7/12/10)

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

Goin Up Yonder

Jesus warned the disciples that He was going away. However, the Lord also promised to return and take them to a home, He had prepared (**John 14:3**) NKJV – (3) *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also.*) This verse confirms that heaven is a real place. According to the Bible, Christians have a citizenship in paradise (**Phil. 3:20**) NKJV – (20) *For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ.*) our treasure is stored there (**Matt. 6:20**) NKJV – (20) *but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal*), and it will be our eternal home (**1 Thessalonians 4:17**) NKJV - (17) *Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. And thus we shall always be with the Lord*). God is not describing an outer space dream world. Rather, all believers will be gathered to a real dwelling place.

Every believer's spirit enters God's presence immediately after physical death (**2 Cor. 5:6**) NKJV – (6) *So we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the body we are absent from the Lord*). Once the Lord's timing is fulfilled for the world's tribulation and judgment, He will renew all things. First, our bodies will be resurrected as immortal, pain-free, and vigorous sheaths for our spirits (**1 Cor. 15:42**) NKJV – (42) *So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption*). Later, earth will be transformed into an uncorrupted paradise, and we will also have access to a heavenly city—the new Jerusalem (**Rev. 21:10-27**).

In these two spheres of heaven, God's children will spend eternity serving and worshipping Him. Despite misconceptions about reclining on clouds and playing harps, we won't be sitting and doing nothing! We will rest, but this holy relief is from all the things that make life on earth so wearying—temptation, trials, heartache, and pain.

Paradise is beyond our imagination, but we do know that the **believer's** life goes on in heaven. As citizens of that kingdom, we will take up the work of serving and praising God. Moreover, we will enjoy unlimited energy and **perfect** harmony between the Lord, ourselves, and other saints.

SCRIPTURE READING

MATTHEW 24:27-31

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Earth has no sorrow that Heaven cannot heal.

