



HOAW Newsletter

The saying is trustworthy, for: If we have died with him, we will also live with him; if we endure, we will also reign with him; if we deny him, he also will deny us; if we are faithless, he remains faithful—for he cannot deny himself. **2 Timothy 2:11-13**

January 2024

HELPING MEN LIVE LIVES OF INTEGRITY AND HONOR

Salvation's Trajectory - Part 4

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In my last newsletter, I described the post-conversion phase of Salvation's Trajectory. In that newsletter I stressed the importance of engagement in worthwhile activities that will facilitate spiritual growth in Christ's

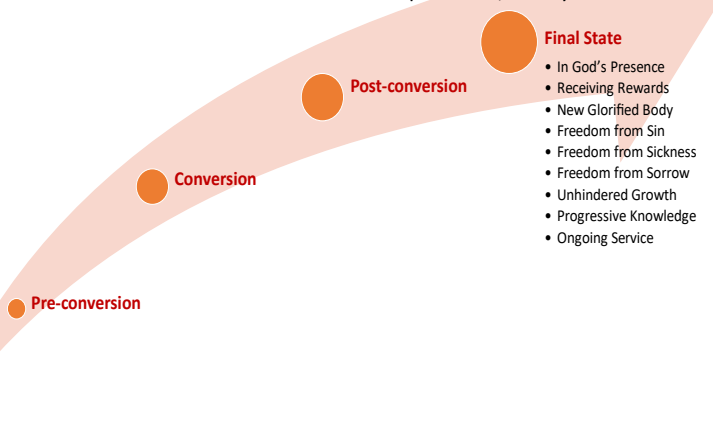
followers. Thus far I have covered pre-conversion, conversion, and post-conversion. In this newsletter I will present the last phase, the Final State, called Glorification, of believers when God calls them home.

No one but God knows the day of our departure from this temporal abode. We do know it is appointed for man to die once and then comes judgment (Hebrews 9:27). The believer will appear before the Judgment Seat of Christ and the unbeliever before the Great White Throne of Judgment.

Biblical scholarship is generally agreed regarding these judgments. At **"the Judgment Seat of Christ"** (2 Corinthians 5:10), resurrected (and raptured) believers in heaven will be judged for their works. Sin is not in view at this judgment, as that was paid for by Christ, but only faithfulness in Christian service. Selfish works or those done with wrong motives will be burned up (the "wood, hay, and stubble" of 1 Corinthians 3:12). Works of lasting value to the Lord will survive (the "gold, silver, and precious stones"). Rewards, which the Bible calls "crowns" (Revelation 3:11; 1

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Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:23; 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 3:14-15; 13:12; 15:42-49; Revelation 21:4; 27; 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 2:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:11-13



Corinthians 3:14-15) will be given by the One who is "not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown him"

(Hebrews 6:10). At the **Great White Throne Judgment**

(Revelation 20:11-15), unbelievers will undergo this final judgment for their sins. This judgment occurs at the end of the Millennium, before the creation of the new heaven and earth. At this judgment, unbelievers from all the ages are judged for their sins and consigned to the lake of fire.

After death believers' souls/spirits are immediately taken to 'heaven – a temporary holding place' to awaiting the bodily resurrection (John 3:16, 18, 36; 2 Corinthians 5:6-8; Philippians 1:23; 1 Corinthians 15:35-49; Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43). Unbelievers also are sent immediately to a 'temporary holding place,' to await their final resurrection, judgment, and eternal destiny (Luke 16:22-24; Revelation 20:11-15). The physical resurrection of the Church occurs at the time of the Rapture for believers who died before the Rapture (John 14:1-3; 1 Thessalonians 4:16-17).

Biblical scholars make the following claim. "In 1 Thessalonians 4:13-18, Paul tells us that believers in Christ are asleep in Jesus; that is, their bodies are dead, but their spirits are alive. This text tells us that when Christ returns, He will bring with Him those who are asleep in Him, and then their bodies will be raised, made new like Christ's resurrected body, to be joined with their spirits which He brings with Him. All believers in Christ who are living at the return of Christ will have their bodies

changed to be like Christ, and they will be completely new in their spirits, no longer having a sin nature." (Got Questions.org – Do we become angels after we die?)

The millennial kingdom is the future reign of Jesus Christ on earth as He sits on David's throne in Jerusalem. Everyone who enters that kingdom will be redeemed by God and therefore righteous (see Isaiah 35:8-10). Among those redeemed will be two distinct groups of people: those with glorified physical bodies and those with natural, earthly bodies.

Those who occupy the millennial kingdom with glorified bodies (Philippians 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 15:42-49) can be divided into three subgroups: the church, whose bodies were either resurrected or changed at the rapture (1 Thessalonians 4:13-18; 1 Corinthians 15:21-23, 51-53); tribulation martyrs, who are resurrected after Christ returns to earth (Revelation 20:4-6); and the Old Testament saints, who we assume are resurrected at the same time (see Daniel 12:2). Those who occupy the kingdom with earthly bodies have survived the tribulation and can be subdivided into two groups: believing Gentiles and believing Jews (GotQuestions.org – Who will occupy the Millenium Kingdom?).

Initially and temporarily, we will be in heaven. When God creates a new heaven and a new earth, the later will be our permanent and final eternal home (Isaiah 65:17; 66:12; 2 Peter 3:13). There will no longer be anything cursed (Revelation 22:3). There will be no more sin nor "anyone who does what is

detestable or false" (Revelation 21:7). God will wipe away every tear from our eyes borne out of sorrow and shame, we will have no more pain, sickness, or suffering, and death will be no more (Revelation 21:4).

So, what will we be doing in our new home? Biblical scholars suggest that we will continue to learn but without the limitation of partial understanding or cloudy thinking. "*For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?*" (Romans 11:34), "*in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge*" (Colossians 2:3). God is the "*the high and lofty One who inhabits eternity*" (Isaiah 57:15). God is bigger than forever, and it will take eternity "*to comprehend with all saints what is the breadth and length and depth and height, and to know the love of Christ*" (Ephesians 3:18-19). In other words, we will never stop learning."

"God's Word says we won't have to be in His paradise alone. "*I shall fully know even as I also am fully known*" (1 Corinthians 13:12). This would seem to indicate that we will not only know our friends and family, we will "fully know" them. In other words, there is no need for secrets in heaven. There is nothing to be ashamed of. There is nothing to hide. We will have eternity to interact with "*a great multitude, which no man could number, out of all nations and kindreds and people and tongues*" (Revelation 7:9). No wonder heaven will be a place of infinite learning. Just getting to know everyone will take eternity!"

"Any further anticipation about what we shall do in God's eternal park, heaven, will be far surpassed

when "the King shall say to those on His right hand, 'Come, blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world'" (Matthew 25:34). Whatever we will be doing, we can be sure it will be wonderful beyond our imaginations!" (GotQuestions.org – What will we be doing in heaven?)

The Bible says that we will reign with Christ during His 1000-year tenure after the tribulation and before the Great White Throne of Judgment. So, there will be service to perform. This suggests that we will also be serving the Lord in some capacity for eternity. We cannot be sure what form that service will take but we can be assured we will not be playing a harp on a cloud for eternity.

We will also be worshipping our Lord and Savior. Worship takes many forms in addition to praise through song and music. In Romans 12:1-3 we read "I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, **which is your spiritual worship**. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect." This passage seems to suggest that worship can also be described as fulfilling the will of God. Once in glory, we will know

the will of God and how we can worship Him in a way that demonstrates our spiritual worship of Him.

We will also be reunited with our loved ones who have preceded us and are believers. We will be able to recognize them immediately just as Peter recognized Moses and Elijah on the Mount of Transfiguration even though he had not known them before. Those who have been lost through miscarriage and abortion will also

should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me." (2 Samuel 12:21-23). David's response indicates the same will be true for believers who will be reunited with their sons and daughters lost through miscarriage, abortion, or untimely death. What a great day that will be!

This concludes my four-part series of newsletters regarding Salvation's Trajectory. The trajectory begins with pre-

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The Gospel

For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Cephas, then to the twelve. 6 Then he appeared to more than five hundred brothers at one time, most of whom are still alive, though some have fallen asleep. **1 Corinthians 15:3-6**

Philippians 2:12-13; 4:8; Hebrews 4:12; 2 Timothy 3:16-17; 1 Matthew 22:37-40; 28:19-20; Ephesians 4:11-16; 6:10-17; 2 Peter 1:3-8; 3:18; John 14:15-24; 2 John 1:6; 2 Corinthians 2:15-16

Ecclesiastes 12:7; Luke 23:43; Philippians 1:23; 3:20-21; 1 Corinthians 3:14-15; 13:12; 15:42-49; Revelation 21:4; 27; 22:12; 2 Corinthians 5:10; Ephesians 2:6-7; 2 Timothy 2:11-13

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8; Romans 10:9-10; Ephesians 2:8; 4:11-16; Titus 2:11-14; 3:5-8; Philippians 3:20; Galatians 5:22-24

Genesis 1:26-27; Ecclesiastes 3:10, 11; Psalm 139:1-18; Hebrews 11:1-3; Romans 1:18-32; 2 Corinthians 7:9-10; John 16:8

Pre-conversion

- Imago Dei
- Awareness
- Discovery
- Understanding
- Conviction
- Decision

Conversion

- Repentance
- Confession
- Justification
- Redemption
- Reconciliation
- Indwelling
- Regeneration
- Adoption
- Kingdom Citizenship
- Fruit of the Spirit (Seed)
- Christlikeness

Post-conversion

- Worship
- Fellowship
- Bible Study
- Hearing
- Reading
- Studying
- Memorizing
- Meditating
- Witnessing
- Service
- Stewardship
- Spiritual Growth
- Love for God
- Love for Others
- Allegiance
- Faithfulness
- Obedience

Final State

- In God's Presence
- Receiving Rewards
- New Glorified Body
- Freedom from Sin
- Freedom from Sickness
- Freedom from Sorrow
- Unhindered Growth
- Progressive Knowledge
- Ongoing Service

The Gospel Amplified

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works. **Titus 2:11-14**

be there to greet us. Recall how King David responded to his courtiers after the death of his son, a consequence of his adultery with Bathsheba and complicity in the death of Uriah, her husband. "Then his servants said to him, 'What is this thing that you have done? You fasted and wept for the child while he was alive; but when the child died, you arose and ate food.' He said, 'While the child was still alive, I fasted and wept, for I said, 'Who knows whether the LORD will be gracious to me, that the child may live?' But now he is dead. Why

conversion initiatives by God, leading to conversion, a commitment to God, followed by post-conversion, a journey to spiritual maturity, and the final stage, passing from this world to eternity with Him in a new heaven initially and a new earth finally.

OTHER NEWS



Heart of a Warrior Ministries offers four journeys you

can take to become who God created you to be.

The Foundation (Ground Zero) helps establish strong biblical foundations for the battles ahead.

The Compass (Phase I) calibrates a warrior's heart and tunes that heart to the heart of God. I am currently leading 45 at Calvary Church WBL Campus on this journey.

The Map (Phase II) helps men focus on what matters in accordance with their unique divine wiring.

The Guide (Phase III) develops the spiritual discipline of being mentored and mentoring others.

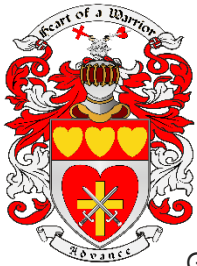
Go to our website for more details.

www.heartofawarrior.org/journeys/

Previous newsletters dating back to January 2018 may be found at

www.heartofawarrior.org/newpage-1

If you would like to contact me directly, email me at Greg@HeartofaWarrior.org



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God-honoring lives

depends on the resources we can use to that end. Simply go to the donations tab on heartofawarrior.org.

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