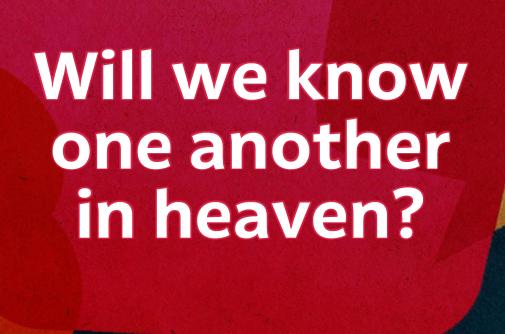
## Heaven, Hell and the **Christian Hope**







related question:
Will we retain our identity, memories of this life?



# implications (if there is no future recognition...)



#### death is the final parting even from loved ones who die right with God



#### we will be judged for things for which we have no memory



luke 19: 19-31

### the rich man and Lazarus



the rich man recognized Lazarus

the rich man recognized Abraham!

#### luke 19:25

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.



...for I have five brothers—so that he may warn them, lest they also come into this place of torment.

rev 6:10

They cried out with a loud voice, O Sovereign Lord, holy and true, how long before you will judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?

#### biblical evidence of future recognition



## Paul's anticipation of reunion with beloved brothers in Christ





Therefore, my brothers, whom I love and long for, my joy and crown, stand firm thus in the Lord, my beloved.



that on the day of our Lord Jesus you will boast of us as we will boast of you.



For what is our hope or joy or crown of boasting before our Lord Jesus at his coming? Is it not you?

## David's hope of seeing his child



## 25am <sub>12:23</sub>

But now he is dead. Why should I fast? Can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he will not return to me.

# the thrill of knowing great men and women of Scripture



luke 9:33

And as the men were parting from him, Peter said to Jesus, Master, it is good that we are here. Let us make three tents, one for you and one for Moses and one for Elijah...

mat 8:11

I tell you, many will come from east and west and recline at table with **Abraham, Isaac,** and **Jacob** in the kingdom of heaven...

#### thus:

we will retain our memories

#### thus:

we will retain our identities, personalities

#### consider:

we will become **even more ourselves**—what we were
made to be—than ever
before!

C.S. Lewis

#### objections to future recognition



# we won't have our physical bodies, hence no recognizable characteristics



#### not so!

Scripture affirms the **bodily** resurrection of Christ, and of all the saved

#### not so!

There will be discontinuity (transformation), but still continuity with our bodies

## we won't be married in heaven





For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels in heaven.

This affirms the resurrection, which involves continuity

marriage does not continue, but memory does

# how can we be happy in heaven if we know that loved ones are not there?



#### but:

if there is no recognition, we still won't know if they, or anyone we knew, is there!

in that day, we will be fully accepting of and content in the will of God

no one cares more about my loved ones than the Lord

but he will not be miserable in the age to come

we will accept that those who are not in heaven did not want to be there



