

THE WINDOW

A Glimpse into Paradise

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Luke 16:19-31

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Introduction: A 21st CENTURY UNDERSTANDING

Heaven is totally overrated. It seems boring. Clouds, listening to people play the harp. It should be somewhere you can't wait to go, like a luxury hotel. Maybe blue skies and soft music were enough to keep people in line in the 17th century, but Heaven has to step it up a bit. They're basically getting by because they only have to be better than Hell. ~ **Joe Stein** (Columnist for the Los Angeles Times)

When I was a boy, the thought of Heaven used to frighten me more than the thought of Hell. I pictured Heaven as a place where time would be perpetual Sundays, with perpetual services from which there would be no escape. ~ **David Lloyd George**

Brothers we do not want you **to be ignorant** about those who fall asleep or to grieve like the rest of men, who have no hope.
~ **Apostle Paul** (1 Thessalonians 4:17-18)

■ WHEN A BELIEVER IN CHRIST "FALLS ASLEEP" HE OR SHE IS ESCORTED TO _____ BY _____.

The time came when the beggar died and the **angels carried** him to Abraham's side [paradise]. The rich man also died and was buried. In hell, where he was in torment... **Luke 16:22-23a**

■ IN HEAVEN YOU WILL EXPERIENCE PARADISE

"I tell you the truth, today you will be with me in paradise."

~ **Jesus (Luke 23:43)**

- A pleasant _____ (2 Cor. 12:1-4/Philippians 1:21-23)

Paradise = an enclosed garden / park

- A tree of _____ (Revelation 2:7)

"Paradise, Heaven, is quite similar to what the Garden of Eden was before sin. Like Eden, it is an extremely pleasant garden, carefully cultivated, lush, and filled with gorgeous exotic plants and animals. Paradise is totally free from any form of pollution, contamination, corruption, perversion, and sin. It is a place of boundless beauty, profound rest, and tremendous tranquility. ~ **Dave Earley**

■ IN PARADISE YOU WILL HAVE _____ WITH GOD.

I am torn between the two: I desire **to depart and be with Christ**, which is better by far; but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body. ~ **Apostle Paul (Philippians 1:23-24)**

We are confident, I say, and would prefer to be away from the body and at home with the Lord. **2 Corinthians 5:8**

■ IN PARADISE YOU WILL EXPERIENCE _____.

But Abraham replied, "Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, while Lazarus received bad things, but **now he is comforted** here [paradise] and you are in agony." **Luke 16:25**

■ IN PARADISE YOU WILL BE _____.

Jesus...took Peter, John and James with him and went up onto a mountain to pray. As he was praying, the appearance of his face changed, and his clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning. Two men, Moses and Elijah, **appeared in glorious splendor**, talking with Jesus... **Luke 9:28-32**

■ IN PARADISE YOU WILL HAVE SOME KNOWLEDGE OF THE EVENTS ON _____.

...They spoke **about his departure**, which he [Jesus] was **about to bring to fulfillment** at Jerusalem. Peter and his companions... saw his glory and the two men standing with him. **Luke 9:28-32**

■ IN PARADISE YOU WILL _____!

SO LET THE _____ BEGIN NOW!

I tell you that in the same way there will be **more rejoicing in heaven** over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent. **Luke 15:5-7**