

IN THE MEANTIME

1 Thessalonians 4:13-18

In the Meantime

- ▣ What happens between the time our death and the return of Christ?
- ▣ Theologians call this the intermediate period.

In the Meantime

- ▣ Theory One: Soul Sleep.

For the living know that they will die,
but the dead know nothing;
they have no further reward,
and even the memory of them is forgotten.

Ecclesiastes 9:5

Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with all your might, for in the grave, where you are going, there is neither working nor planning nor knowledge nor wisdom.

Ecclesiastes 9:10

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.

1 Thessalonians 4:13

Multitudes who sleep in the dust of the earth will awake: some to everlasting life, others to shame and everlasting contempt.

Daniel 12:2

In the Meantime

- ▣ Theory One: Soul Sleep.
- ▣ Theory Two: Conscious with Christ.

I am torn between the two: I desire to depart and be with Christ, which is better by far; ²⁴ but it is more necessary for you that I remain in the body.

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

When he opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain because of the word of God and the testimony they had maintained. ¹⁰ They called out in a loud voice, “How long, Sovereign Lord, holy and true, until you judge the inhabitants of the earth and avenge our blood?” ¹¹ Then each of them was given a white robe, and they were told to wait a little longer, until the number of their fellow servants and brothers who were to be killed as they had been was completed. Revelation 6:9-11

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.

Hebrews 12:1

In the Meantime

- ▣ Theory One: Soul Sleep.
- ▣ Theory Two: Conscious with Christ.
- ▣ A twist: Time may bend.

But do not forget this one thing, dear friends: With the Lord a day is like a thousand years, and a thousand years are like a day.

2 Peter 3:8

In the Meantime

- ▣ Theory One: Soul Sleep.
- ▣ Theory Two: Conscious with Christ.
- ▣ A twist: Time may bend.
- ▣ Evidence of the present heaven.

But Stephen, full of the Holy Spirit, looked up to heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God. ⁵⁶“Look,” he said, “I see heaven open and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

Acts 7:55-56

Meanwhile we groan, longing to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, ³ because when we are clothed, we will not be found naked. ⁴ For while we are in this tent, we groan and are burdened, because we do not wish to be unclothed but to be clothed with our heavenly dwelling, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life.

2 Corinthians 5:2-4

I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago was caught up to the third heaven. Whether it was in the body or out of the body I do not know — God knows. ³ And I know that this man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, but God knows — ⁴ was caught up to paradise.

2 Corinthians 12:2-4

In the Meantime

- ▣ Theory One: Soul Sleep.
- ▣ Theory Two: Conscious with Christ.
- ▣ A twist: Time may bend.
- ▣ Evidence of the present heaven.
- ▣ In Christ we can look forward to heaven.