

- Their bodies: Difficult to understand; their temporal bodies have died, and they have not yet received their glorified bodies, yet they must have some visible form.
- **Total peace: Isaiah 57:2** Those who walk uprightly [because of their faith in Jesus] enter into peace [that is, having full assurance of forgiveness]; [their bodies] find rest as they lie in death” (NIV). // When people die in Christ, they are blessed to be with God, in soul and spirit and in the intermediate heaven, but there is more to come!

When Will We Enjoy the Greatest Blessings Mentioned in the Bible? Gift 5

Gift 5: God Will Give Us the Fullness of Eternal Life – When Jesus Returns!

- **All bodies will be raised: John 5:28-29** “...an hour is coming, in which all who are in the tombs will hear His voice, and will come forth...” // **Philippians 3:20-21** “...we eagerly wait for a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ; who will transform the body of our humble state into conformity with the body of His glory...”
- **The final judgment: Revelation 20:12, 15** “...I saw the dead, the great and the small [with body, soul, and spirit], standing before the throne... And if anyone’s name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into

the lake of fire.” // When we have Christ, we have God’s gift of life: **1 John 5:12** “He who has the Son has the life...”

- **Blessings forever: Revelation 21:3-4** “...I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, ‘Behold, the tabernacle [dwelling place] of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” // When Jesus returns: ♦the dead will be raised, and ♦everyone will be back together in body, soul, and spirit. Then, after the final judgment, all believers will enjoy the fullness of eternal life in God’s glorious presence forevermore!

Conclusion

If you are not already in possession of God’s great gifts, call me now to schedule a time to talk. *Pastor Green, 440-292-5915*

Passages in this brochure are from the New American Standard Bible, 1995, The Lockman Foundation.

Connect With Us

Website: www.BLC7500.com
YouTube and Podcast: Benefit from the Bible
Facebook: Bethlehem Lutheran Church Parma
Schedule: Saturday 4; Sunday 9; 440-845-2230
Location: 7500 State Road, Parma, OH 44134
 (Last Update: 11-22)



Introduction

Dear Friend: If you are sorry for your sins and trusting in Jesus alone for your entrance into heaven, *you are greatly blessed!* If not, let’s talk as soon as possible – because *I have good news for YOU!*

For all who know Jesus, there seems to be some confusion about:

- ➔ What happened long ago.
- ➔ Where we are headed when we die.
- ➔ When we will enjoy the greatest blessings mentioned in the Bible.

Therefore, please keep reading to learn and understand what God has told us in His word; then, live with ♦*thankfulness for the past* and ♦*excited expectation for the future!*

What Happened Long Ago? Gifts 1 – 2 – 3

Gift 1: God Chose Us – Predestination!

- **The order of salvation: Romans 8:30** “...these whom He [God the Father] predestined, He [G t F] also called; and

these whom He [G t F] called, He [G t F] also justified; and these whom He [G t F] justified, He [G t F] also glorified." // G t F has done everything for our salvation!

- **When God chose us and why:** **Ephesians 1:4-5** "...He [G t F] chose us in Him [Christ] before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love He [G t F] predestined us to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself..." // Even before creation God chose us and planned to make us holy in His sight through Jesus.

Gift 2: God Gave Us Physical Life – Conception and Birth!

- **God opened our mother's womb:**
 - Regarding Hannah in the OT: **1 Samuel 1:5** "...the LORD had closed her womb."
 - Hannah prayed, and then: **1 Samuel 1:19-20** "...the LORD remembered [Hannah]. It came about in due time, after Hannah had conceived, that she gave birth to a son..."
- **God gave us the gift of physical life:**
 - **Genesis 2:7** "...the LORD God formed man of dust from the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life..."
 - **Acts 17:25** "...He [G t F] Himself gives to all *people* life and breath and all things..."

- **Acts 17:28** "...in Him [G t F] we live and move and exist..."

Gift 3: God Gave Us Spiritual Life – He Clothed Us in Christ through Baptism!

- **God's gift is for all ages:** **Acts 2:38-39** "...each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins; and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. For the promise is for you and your children..."
- **The work of the Holy Trinity:** **Titus 3:5-6** He [G t F] saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewing by the Holy Spirit, whom He [G t F] poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior..."
- **We were clothed in Jesus' sinless life:** **Galatians 3:27** "...all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ."

Where Are We Headed When We Die? Gift 4

Gift 4: God Will Take Us to the Intermediate Heaven – a wonderful place (peace, no evil, no temptation)!

- **The third heaven and paradise are the same:** **2 Corinthians 12:2-4** "I know a man in Christ who... was caught up to the third heaven. And I know how such a man... was caught up into Paradise..."

- **People are body, soul, and spirit:** **1 Thessalonians 5:23** "...may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."
 - Our current bodies are temporal: **Genesis 3:19** "...you are dust, And to dust you shall return."
 - When our bodies die, our souls and spirits will immediately be with the Lord: **2 Corinthians 5:8** "...we... prefer... to be absent from the body and to be at home with the Lord." // **Acts 7:59** "They went on stoning Stephen as he called on *the Lord* and said, 'Lord Jesus, receive my spirit!'" // **Matthew 22:32** "...He [G t F] is not the God of the dead but of the living [Ab, Is, and Ja]."
- **Revelation 7:9-17 is a glimpse into the intermediate heaven:** "...I looked, and behold, a great multitude which no one could count... standing before the throne and before the Lamb, clothed in white robes [symbolizing God's gift of righteousness], and palm branches were in their hands [indicating their victory in Jesus] ... Then one of the elders [explained...] 'These are the ones who come [lit. "are coming" (present participle)] out of the great tribulation, and they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb."
 - "coming out" – Dr. Becker wrote: "**John sees** [the Christians] 'coming out' ...as a continuous... process."