

PHILIPPIANS Lesson 40

Chapter 3, verse 20-21: What Happens to Us at the Lord's Return?

23 January 2023

The phrase "*The Lord's return*" can refer to two things:

1. His literal return to Earth to establish His kingdom.
2. His return to the clouds to catch away from this Earth His Saints in the Body of Christ. This is what is being referred to in Philippians 3.
 - a. Believers who had died before the Lord's return will be resurrected and changed.
 - b. Believers who are still alive when the Lord returns will be caught up alive and changed.

Vs 21 "**Our vile body...may be fashioned like unto his glorious body.**" The Lord will change the "fashion" of our body which is currently clothing our soul and spirit.

- We need a body that is suited for life in heaven when we relocate there.

Supporting verses:

Titus 2:13 The Lord's return is called the "**Blessed hope.**"

Col. 3:4 When Jesus Christ appears, our life will appear, because Jesus is our life.

John 14:6 Jesus is "**the way, the truth, and the life.**" Don't tell people, "*Let Christ come into your life.*" They don't have a life until they receive Jesus Christ as their Savior.

1 Jn. 2:28 "**When he shall appear...**" (Not "*if*"). The Lord's return is a sure thing.

2 Tim. 4:1 The Lord Jesus Christ "**shall judge the quick and the dead at his appearing...**"

- Those trusting something other than Jesus will be left behind to suffer tribulation.
 - Your judgment is already determined before Jesus comes. His return finalizes it.

Rom 7:24 When we are freed from our vile bodies, we'll be freed from a "body of death."

- This is called the redemption of the body (Eph. 4:30).
- Your soul is redeemed the moment you trust Christ for salvation. Your body awaits the coming of the Lord for its redemption.
 - Until then, there will be conflict between your redeemed soul and your unredeemed body.
 - Meanwhile, your vile body will continue to degrade. No one can stop it.

Knowing that the Lord Jesus could come at any moment ought to motivate you to keep your body prepared to meet the Lord. It will help to keep you pure.

Our Earthly House

2 Cor 4:16-5:3 "**Though our outward man perish...**" (4:16). It is a fact that your mortal body is dying.

"**Yet the inward man is renewed day by day.**" The real you on the inside is just as new today as it was the moment you got saved.

Our physical body is that "**which is seen**" which is "**temporal**" (vs 18). Don't look at it. Rather, look at "**the things which are NOT seen**" (the Lord's coming) which is eternal.

Our body is called "**our earthly house of this tabernacle.**" (5:1). Our new body is called "**a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.**" It is called "**Our house which is from heaven**" (5:2).

We live in a vile body. One day we'll live in a glorious body. Moving day will be exciting and wonderful.