

# THE BELIEVER'S GUIDE TO ULTIMATE REALITY

(AS DESCRIBED BY GOD AND AS DEFINED IN HIS BIBLE)

- 1. PERSPECTIVE OF NOW & THEN:** Understanding the ultimate reality of life as God describes and defines it must include the perspective of now and then, i.e. our lives now and our lives yet to come. In one form or another we will live beyond our existence on Earth. If we live only in view of this physical world, then we are not facing reality as God sets it forth in the Bible. *-(Revelation 1:19 ESV) Write therefore the things that you have seen, those that are and those that are to take place after this.*
- 2. ESTABLISHED BIBLICAL PRIORITIES:** So we see that God teaches us to view life in its entirety, but we must also see that he establishes priorities as to what our direction and focus should be. *-(Colossians 3:1-2 ESV) If then you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on earth.*
- 3. LIFE IN CHRIST:** The believer must come to understand that his or her life is now in Christ. *-(Colossians 3:3-4 NASB) For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory.*
- 4. TRUE LIFE AFTER DEATH:** The believer in Christ must not be foolish but must understand that true life begins after death. We must live with the reality that our physical death, our departure from this world, is not merely an addendum to our story but the main point of the story of God's saving work in our lives. *-(1 Corinthians 15:35-36 GW) But someone will ask, "How do the dead come back to life? With what kind of body will they come back?" You fool! The seed you plant doesn't come to life unless it dies first.*
- 5. WORD OF GOD ONLY SOURCE:** As believers in Jesus Christ, we must depend on the word of God to provide the necessary information. Our physical bodies do not provide an accurate basis to attest to or to predict what our resurrection bodies will be like. *-(1 Corinthians 15:37 NIV) When you sow, you do not plant the body that will be, but just a seed, perhaps of wheat or of something else.*
- 6. A RESURRECTION TRANSFORMATION:** These bodies will be completely and utterly changed, dramatically and swiftly. At our resurrection God will transform our earthly bodies into heavenly bodies ready for his glory. *-(1 Corinthians 15:42-44 NIV) So will it be with the resurrection of the dead. The body that is sown is perishable, it is raised imperishable; it is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory; it is sown in weakness, it is raised in power; it is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body.*
- 7. LOOK PAST PHYSICAL FRAILTY TO SPIRITUAL STRENGTH:** Reality is that we are wearing out physically. Scripture gives us that reality but also informs us of the reality that, as believers, we are daily being spiritually renewed. *-(2 Corinthians 4:16 GW) That is why we are not discouraged. Though outwardly we are wearing out, inwardly we are renewed day by day. -(2 Corinthians 5:1 GW) For we know that if the tent that is our earthly home is destroyed, we have a building from God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.*
- 8. LOOK PAST OUR SUFFERING TO GOD'S GLORY:** We must understand our suffering in the context of eternity and in the context of God's blessing that he brings from our suffering in this life. *-(2 Corinthians 4:17 GW) Our suffering is light and temporary and is producing for us an eternal glory that is greater than anything we can imagine.*
- 9. LOOK PAST NOW TO FOREVER:** Our focus must be on eternity, aka the things that we cannot yet see. The Bible states this very clearly. To live in the reality that God describes and defines, we must look past this world to forever. *-(2 Corinthians 4:18 GW) We don't look for things that can be seen but for things that can't be seen. Things that can be seen are only temporary. But things that can't be seen last forever. -(2 Corinthians 5:6-7 ESV) So we are always of good courage. We know that while we are at home in the body we are away from the Lord, for we walk by faith, not by sight.*
- 10. OUR ACCOUNTABILITY & STEWARDSHIP IN THIS BODY:** Even though weak and frail we still have an amazing opportunity to please Christ. We will appear before Christ to give an account for what we have done in the body. *-(2 Corinthians 5:9-10 ESV) So whether we are at home or away, we make it our aim to please him. For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each one may receive what is due for what he has done in the body, whether good or evil.*

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WRITE THEREFORE THE THINGS THAT YOU HAVE SEEN,  
THOSE THAT ARE AND THOSE THAT ARE TO TAKE PLACE AFTER THIS.  
(REVELATION 1:19 ESV)

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