

**SHALL WE KNOW ONE ANOTHER IN HEAVEN?
I John 3:1-3**

Introduction:

1. Robert Ingersoll spent his life in an effort to destroy men's faith in God.
2. At his brother's funeral, Ingersoll revealed the despair of atheists:

"Life is a narrow vale between the cold and barren peaks of two eternities. We strive in vain to look beyond the heights. We cry aloud, and the only answer is the echo of our wailing cry. From the voiceless lips of the unreplying dead there comes no word."
3. Job asked, "If a man dies, shall he live again?" (Job 14:14).
4. Jesus answers, "I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live. And whoever lives and believes in Me shall never die" (John 11:25, 26).
5. We shall live again, but will we recognize one another in Heaven?

Discussion:

- I. MANY BIBLE BELIEVERS ARGUE AGAINST FUTURE RECOGNITION.
 - A. "Future recognition requires memory to continue, but how is it possible if the brain is dissolved?"
 1. Memory does not come from the brain but functions through the brain.
 2. Memory is a product of the mind, heart or soul of man.
 3. In Hades, the rich man, though dead, remembered Lazarus and his five brothers who were still living on earth (Luke 16:19-31).
 - B. "How can a spirit recognize another spirit when both are formless and featureless?"
 1. The Bible does not teach we will be spirits, but that we will have spiritual bodies.

"It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body" (1 Cor. 15:44).
 2. The "real you" is your soul, spirit, or personality; this continues after death (James 2:26).

C. “Death and decay will change our bodies so that they cannot be recognized.”

- 1. A seed decays and dies, yet it produces a plant in its likeness.**
- 2. We change in life, yet acquaintances recognize us even when they have not seen us in many years.**

D. “Jesus said we will be like the angels in Heaven.”

- 1. Jesus was answering the Sadducees who denied the resurrection of the dead (Matthew 22:23-33).**

“For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like the angels of God in Heaven” (v. 30).

- 2. He did not say we will not recognize one another but that earthly relationships will not continue in Heaven.**

E. “How can I be happy in Heaven if I know my loved ones are not there?”

- 1. God’s Word assures us we will be happy in Heaven.**

“God will wipe away every tear from their eyes; there shall be no more death, nor sorrow, nor crying. There shall be no more pain for the former things have passed away” (Rev. 21:4).

- 2. We will know God’s Judgment is right (Gen. 18:25).**
- 3. The question we should ask is, “How can I be happy on earth knowing my loved ones are lost?”**

II. THE BIBLE TEACHES WE SHALL KNOW ONE ANOTHER IN HEAVEN.

A. God has placed in the hearts of men the desire to live again and be reunited with loved ones.

- 1. Job’s question, “If a man dies, will he live again?” has been asked through the ages.**
- 2. Solomon said, “He has put eternity in their hearts” (Eccl. 3:11).**
- 3. Recognition after death is commonly accepted by believers.**

B. Our individual personalities will continue in eternity.

- 1. We will remember our deeds in Judgment (Matthew 25:34-46).**
- 2. The martyrs remembered they had been killed (Rev. 6:10).**

3. **Moses and Elijah appeared to Jesus in the Transfiguration.**
 - a. **They had both been dead for hundreds of years.**
 - b. **They had lived on the earth hundreds of years apart.**
 - c. **They recognized one another and were recognized by Jesus and the apostles (Matthew 17:1-9).**
4. **Paul expected to recognize his converts in the resurrection.**

“For what is our hope, or joy, or crown of rejoicing? Is it not even you in the presence of our Lord Jesus Christ at His coming” (1 Thess. 2:19)?

C. Recognition in Hades is clearly taught (Luke 16:19-31).

1. **The rich man recognized the beggar who had lain at his gate.**
2. **He knew who he was and remembered his brothers on earth.**

Conclusion:

1. **If we lost our identity, as well as our memory and recognition of loved ones, much of the joy of Heaven would be taken away.**

**“Oh, how sweet it will be, in that beautiful land,
So free from all sorrow and pain,
With songs on our lips, and with joy in our hearts,
To meet one another again.”**

2. **The recognition of loved ones and the saved of all ages will bring joy beyond measure to us in Heaven.**

**“There the saints of all ages in harmony meet,
Their Savior and brethren transported to greet,
While the anthems of rapture unceasingly roll,
And the smile of the Lord is the feast of the soul.”**

3. **If one wants to see his loved ones again, he must be a faithful follower of Christ in this life.**

“Blessed are they that wash their robes, that they may have the right to the tree of life, and may enter in by the gates into the city” (Rev. 22:14; ASV 1901).

“And now, why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord” (Acts 22:16).