

II Peter 1:11-15

11-12. For so an **ENTRANCE will be supplied to you ABUNDANTLY into the everlasting KINGDOM** of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Therefore I will not be negligent to remind you always of these things, though you know them, and are established in the present truth.

- **John 3:3** "_____ answered and said to him, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is _____, he cannot see the _____ of _____."
- **John 3:5** "Jesus answered, "Most assuredly, I say to you, unless one is _____ of water and the _____, he cannot _____ the _____ of _____."
- **Colossians 1:13-14** "He has delivered us from the power of darkness and translated us into the _____ of the _____ of His love, in whom we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins."

Definition: "The everlasting KINGDOM of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ" - Jesus came preaching the gospel, but He also called it "**preaching the Kingdom of God.**" Paul also uses **the terms "preaching the gospel" and "preaching the kingdom of God" interchangeably.** The way we ENTER the kingdom of God, which is also called the Kingdom of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, is by being born again by faith in Jesus Christ. Simply repent of your sins, ask Jesus to SAVE YOU and be your Savior, and receive Him by faith.

- **Acts 20:21 & 24-25** "Testifying to Jews, and also to Greeks, _____ toward _____ and _____ toward our Lord _____." (Verses 24-25) "But none of these things move me; nor do I count my life dear to myself, so that I may finish my race with joy, and the _____ which I received from the Lord Jesus, to testify to the _____ of the _____ of God. And indeed, now I know that you all, among whom I have gone _____ the _____ of _____, will see my face no more."
- **Luke 16:16** "The law and the prophets were _____ John (the Baptist). Since that time the _____ of _____ has been _____, and everyone is pressing into it."

Definition: "He cannot ENTER the KINGDOM of God" - The reason a person CANNOT enter the kingdom of God without being born again, is because **we are all DEAD in our SINS**, and we MUST have a SPIRITUAL RE-BIRTH and be RE-CREATED and given LIFE by God in order to **LIVE in His KINGDOM.** The person who is merely corruptible human "flesh and blood" without a spiritual rebirth from God cannot enter or "inherit" the kingdom of God. This "new birth" by "water and the Spirit" is also described in the Old Testament, in Ezekiel 36:25-27. God not only gives us a new heart and a new spirit within us, but He will give us a new resurrection body that will be able to live in His kingdom forever.

- **Ezekiel 36:25-27** "Then I will sprinkle _____ on you, and you will be clean; I will _____ you from all your filthiness (sins) and all your idols. A new _____ also will I give you, and a new _____ will I put within you; and I will take away the stony heart out of your flesh (body), and I will give you a heart of flesh (a compassionate heart). I will put My _____ within you and _____ you to walk in My statutes (laws), and you will _____ My judgments and _____ them."

- **I Corinthians 15:50** "Now this I say, brethren, that _____ and _____ cannot inherit the _____ of _____; nor does corruption inherit incorruption."

Definition: "An ENTRANCE will be supplied to you ABUNDANTLY" - To merely enter the kingdom of God requires only that a person be born again by faith in Jesus Christ. An **"ABUNDANT ENTRANCE" into God's kingdom** is in regards to the question of "What Is the Basis for Rewards for Believers?" In I Corinthians 3:12-15, God talks about two kinds of people who will be in heaven (God's kingdom): **(1.) Those who receive MANY REWARDS (the ABUNDANT ENTRANCE)** and **(2.) Those who barely get in "by the skin of their teeth"** as the old saying goes. After you are saved by faith in Jesus Christ, **God expects you to live for Him and do good works** (Ephesians 2:10). Obedience to God's commands is what He considers "good works" and that is what will receive a reward. But God also sees what motive is behind the works we do, and that inner motive and attitude of the heart is as important as the outward deed. Deuteronomy 28:47 says the Israelites were under the curse not only because of their disobedience, but **because they "did not SERVE GOD with JOY and a GLAD HEART"** and their attitude was wrong. Works done with wrong motives are "wood, hay, and straw" - no rewards! We are only talking about Christians here, not the unsaved! The comfort in these verses is that it says that **even without any rewards** (a person's deeds were all worthless and burned up), that person will still go to heaven. That is what is meant by "saved as though by fire". It's a picture of someone whose house is on fire, and they and their family escaped alive, but everything they owned was burned up. All Christians will get to heaven because they believed on Jesus Christ for their salvation, and that is cause for rejoicing just in that, but how much better to arrive in heaven with rewards awaiting you in abundance - **the "abundant entrance into the kingdom of God"?**

- **I Corinthians 3:12-15** "Now if anyone _____ on this _____ with _____, _____, precious _____, wood, _____, _____, each one's _____ will become manifest; for the Day (of judgment) will declare it, because it will be revealed by fire; and the fire will test each one's work, of what sort it is. If anyone's _____ which he has built on it (on the foundation of Christ) endures, he will _____ a _____. If anyone's _____ is _____, he will suffer loss; but he _____ will be _____, yet so as through fire."
- **Revelation 2:23** ".....And all the _____ shall know that I am _____ who searches the minds and hearts. And I will _____ to _____ one of you _____ to your _____."
- **Revelation 2:2-3** "I know your _____, your _____, your patience, and that you cannot bear those who are evil.....and you have persevered and have patience, and have _____ for _____ name's _____ and have not become weary."
- **Revelation 3:1b-2** ".....I know your _____, that you have a name that you are alive, but you are dead. Be watchful, and strengthen the things which remain, that are ready to die, for I have _____ found your _____ perfect before God."
- **Ephesians 2:10** "For we are His workmanship, _____ in _____ for (for the purpose of) good _____, which God has prepared beforehand that we _____ walk in them."
- **Revelation 22:12** "And behold, I am coming quickly, and My _____ is with Me, to _____ to every one _____ to his _____."
- **Matthew 6:19-21** "Do not _____ for yourselves _____ on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but _____ for yourselves _____ in _____,

where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your _____ is, there your _____ will be also."

13-15. Yes, I think it right. **As long as I am IN THIS TENT**, to stir you up by reminding you, knowing that **shortly I must PUT OFF MY TENT, just as our Lord Jesus Christ showed me.** Moreover I will be careful to ensure that you always have a reminder of these things **AFTER MY DECEASE.**

- **II Corinthians 5:1-4, 6 & 8** "For we know that if our _____ house, this _____, is destroyed, we have a building from _____, a _____ not made with hands, _____ in the _____. For in this we groan, earnestly desiring to be clothed with our habitation (house, body) which is from _____, if indeed, having been _____, we shall not be found naked. For we who are in this _____ groan, being burdened, not because we want to be unclothed, but further clothed, that mortality may be swallowed up by life." (Verse 6) "Therefore we are always confident, knowing that while we are at home in the _____, we are _____ from the Lord." (Verse 8) "We are confident, yes, well pleased rather to be _____ from the _____ and to be _____ with the _____."
- **Romans 8:23** "And not only they, but we also who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, even we ourselves _____ within _____, eagerly waiting for the adoption, the _____ of our _____."

Definition: "Shortly I must PUT OFF MY TENT" - Peter is referring to his death, because he says, "**AFTER MY DECEASE**", and refers to his earthly body as a "tent" that his eternal spirit lives in while on earth. Obviously, **if we can PUT OFF the body**, the true person, the soul and spirit, is LEAVING the body at death. In some translations, II Peter 1:15 reads, ".....that at any time **after my departure** you may be able to call these things to mind," so again we see that death is a DEPARTURE from the physical body. When Paul wrote his last letter before his death, to the church in Philippi, he told them that he was ready "**to DEPART and be with Christ.**" Jesus Christ is not still in the grave, so Paul is NOT talking about departing and going into the grave in some kind of "soul sleep"! Jesus Christ is sitting **in heaven** at the right hand of the Father, and that is where ALL true, born-again believers in Christ will go IMMEDIATELY after we depart from our earthly bodies! When we die, we will **immediately "DEPART and be with Christ**, for that is very much better" (Philippians 1:23).

- **I Thessalonians 4:16-17** "For the Lord Himself will _____ from _____ with a shout, with the voice of an archangel, and with the trumpet of God. And the _____ in _____ will _____ first (Christians who have died will be RESURRECTED). Then we who are alive and remain shall be caught up (taken up) together with them in the _____ to meet the _____ in the air. And thus we shall _____ be _____ the Lord."
- **Philippians 3:20-21** "For our citizenship is in _____, from which we also eagerly _____ for the _____, the Lord _____ Christ, who will _____ our lowly _____ that it may be _____ to _____ glorious _____, according to the working by which He is able even to subdue all things to Himself."
- **I Corinthians 15:20-22 & 26** "But now Christ is _____ from the dead, and has become the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep (in death). For since by _____ came _____, by Man came also the _____ of the dead. For as in _____ all _____, even so in Christ all shall be made _____."
- **Philippians 3:20-21** "For our citizenship is in _____, from which we also _____ wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will _____"

our lowly _____ that it may be conformed to (made the same as) His glorious _____, according to the working by which He is able to subdue _____ things to Himself."

Definition: "FIRSTFRUITS of the SPIRIT" - The Holy Spirit is given to us as a DOWN PAYMENT or GUARANTEE of the resurrection which is to come. In the Old Testament, the "FIRSTFRUITS" was the FIRST PART of the HARVEST, which was given to God as an offering, in FAITH that the REST OF THE HARVEST would be plentiful and good. Jesus is called "the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep", meaning that He was the first of God's harvest to be resurrected.

Definition: "REDEMPTION of our BODY" - This means when we receive our RESURRECTION BODY. When we get saved, our SPIRIT within us is BORN AGAIN and made NEW, but we feel "naked" without the corresponding NEW SPIRITUAL BODY (See **Genesis 3:9-11** and **I Cor. 15:35-57**). You've heard of a space suit, that a person must wear while in outer space? Well, **we are SPIRITUAL BEINGS who live here on earth in an "EARTH SUIT" or temporary dwelling - our physical body.** This earthly body is only temporary, and we will get **a new perfect body at the resurrection**, one in which we will be able to live in God's kingdom forever. Paul also talks about being in "this tent" and about death as being **"ABSENT from the BODY"** and being immediately **"present with the Lord."** If a Christian dies today, **his soul and spirit goes immediately to be with the Lord** in heaven, and at the Resurrection Day, his soul and spirit will be clothed in a new, perfect body, just like the body Jesus had after His resurrection. Don't be confused! There are some people who **falsely teach** something they call "soul sleep," which means they believe both the soul and body are in a kind of limbo, or "sleep" until the resurrection. The Bible teaches that the soul and spirit TOGETHER go to be with the Lord, while **ONLY the BODY "sleeps" in the grave, awaiting the resurrection, at which time it will be "redeemed" ("the redemption of our body")**. Also, Paul says in I Thessalonians 4:16-17 that **the Lord Jesus, when He returns from heaven, will "bring with Him" the dead in Christ**, as their bodies are being resurrected at the Rapture. If Jesus is going to **BRING the departed saints WITH HIM from heaven**, it is obvious that their souls were not sleeping in the grave with their bodies.

Definition: "Just as our Lord Jesus Christ SHOWED ME" - When did Jesus ever show Peter when and how he would die? When Jesus said, in John 21:18-19, "You will stretch out your hands, and another will gird you and carry you where you do not wish," He was referring to Peter being arrested and put in chains (girded, tied up), and led away to prison. History tells us that later in his life, **Peter was arrested and PUT to DEATH for his faith in Jesus Christ.** Jesus told Peter that his death would GLORIFY GOD. This means that those Christians who are martyred (killed) for their faith in Christ have a witness to others, even as they are dying, and God Himself receives the praise and glory.

- **John 21:18-19** "Most assuredly, I say to you, when you were younger, you girded yourself and walked where you wished; but when you are _____, you will stretch out your _____, and another will gird you and carry you where you do _____ wish." This He spoke, signifying by what _____ he would _____ God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow _____."