

WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER



**WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER,
WILL I BE THERE?**

1. You will be there if your name is on the roll.

- (Philippians 4:3 ESV) Yes, I ask you also, true companion, help these women, who have labored side by side with me in the gospel together with Clement and the rest of my fellow workers, **whose names are in the book of life.**
- (Hebrews 12:22–23 ESV) But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to innumerable angels in festal gathering, **23 and to the assembly of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven,** and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirits of the righteous made perfect.
- (Revelation 21:27 ESV) But nothing unclean will ever enter it, nor anyone who does what is detestable or false, **but only those who are written in the Lamb's book of life.**

2. You will not be there if your name is not on the roll.

- (Revelation 20:11–15 ESV) Then I saw a great white throne and him who was seated on it. From his presence earth and sky fled away, and no place was found for them. **12** And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, **and books were opened. Then another book was opened, which is the book of life.** And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, according to what they had done. **13** And the sea gave up the dead who were in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead who were in them, and they were judged, each one of them, according to what they had done. **14** Then Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. **15** **And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.**
- (Revelation 13:8 ESV) And all who dwell on earth will worship it, **everyone whose name has not been written before the foundation of the world in the book of life of the Lamb who was slain.**

3. Your name will be on the roll—in the book of life—if you have been saved.

- (1 Corinthians 15:1–4 ESV) Now I would remind you, brothers, of **the gospel I preached**

to you, which you received, in which you stand, 2 and **by which you are being saved,** if you hold fast to the word I preached to you—**unless you believed in vain.** 3 For I delivered to you as of first importance what I also received: that Christ died for our sins in accordance with the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures.

4. So the necessary action for each of us this morning is to examine our lives to make sure we are saved so that we may have joyful confidence that our names are written in heaven.

- (Luke 10:20 ESV) Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, **but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.**
- (2 Corinthians 13:5 ESV) **Examine yourselves, to see whether you are in the faith. Test yourselves.** Or do you not realize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you?—**unless indeed you fail to meet the test!**
- (1 Corinthians 11:27–29 ESV) Whoever, therefore, eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord in an unworthy manner will be guilty concerning the body and blood of the Lord. **28 Let a person examine himself, then, and so eat of the bread and drink of the cup.** 29 For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body eats and drinks judgment on himself.

**WHAT HAPPENS WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED
UP YONDER?**

1. This event is known as the rapture of the Church and is described in 1 Thessalonians 4.

- (1 Thessalonians 4:17 ESV) **Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds** to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

The biblical term for rapture is "caught up" [Gk. ἄρπάζω harpazō] and means to catch up, take by force, catch away, pluck; to seize, carry off by force.

2. This event is also found in 1 Corinthians 15.

- (1 Corinthians 15:50–55 ESV) I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51

Behold! I tell you a mystery. **We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet.** For the trumpet will sound, and the dead will be raised imperishable, and we shall be changed. 53 For this **perishable body must put on the imperishable**, and this **mortal body must put on immortality.** **When** the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, **then shall come to pass the saying that is written:** “Death is swallowed up in victory.” 55 “O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?”

Several things will happen instantaneously during this rapture event as God completes his work of glorification.

- a. We will leave earth behind.
- b. We will be instantaneously changed.
- c. Our bodies will be transformed from perishable to imperishable.
- d. At the rapture we will experience our ultimate, forever victory over death.

The entire earth has been groaning under the burden of death since Adam and Eve rebelled about 6,000 years ago. That ends for the saved in the twinkling of an eye.

- (Romans 8:22 ESV) For we know that **the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now.**
 - (Genesis 2:17 ESV) But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil you shall not eat, **for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die.**
 - (Genesis 3:12–13 ESV) The man said, “The woman whom you gave to be with me, **she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate.**” 13 Then the Lord God said to the woman, “What is this that you have done?” The woman said, “**The serpent deceived me, and I ate.**”
 - (Romans 5:12 ESV) **Therefore, just as sin came into the world through one man, and death through sin, and so death spread to all men because all sinned.**
- e. We will surely be thrilled as our genuine faith results in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.
 - (1 Peter 1:7 ESV) **So that the tested genuineness of your faith**—more precious

than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—**may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.**

- f. We will instantly experience the amazing transformation of our entire person—from perishable to imperishable, from dishonor to glory.
 - (1 Corinthians 15:42–49 ESV) So is it with the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is **perishable**; what is raised is **imperishable**. 43 It is sown in **dishonor**; it is raised in **glory**. It is sown in **weakness**; it is raised in **power**. 44 **It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body.** If there is a natural body, there is also a spiritual body. 45 Thus it is written, “The first man Adam became a living being”; the last Adam became a life-giving spirit. 46 But it is not the spiritual that is first but the natural, and then the spiritual. 47 **The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven.** 48 As was the man of **dust**, so also are those who are of the **dust**, and as is the man of **heaven**, so also are those who are of **heaven**. 49 **Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.**
- g. At the rapture God finishes the work in our lives that he planned before the creation of our world, and he does it in the twinkling of an eye.
 - (Ephesians 1:4–5 ESV) **Even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.** In love 5 he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, **according to the purpose of his will.**
 - (Romans 8:28–30 ESV) And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. 29 **For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son,** in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. 30 And those whom he predestined he also called, **and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.**

3. Believers who are alive at this time will be caught up together with the saints who previously died to meet the Lord in the air and from that moment on we will always be with the Lord.

- (1 Thessalonians 4:13–17 ESV) But we do not want you to be uninformed, brothers, about those who are asleep, that you may not grieve as others do who have no hope. 14 For since we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so, through Jesus, God will bring with him those who have fallen asleep. 15 For this we declare to you by a word from the Lord, that we who are alive, who are left until the coming of the Lord, will not precede those who have fallen asleep. 16 For the Lord himself will descend from heaven with a cry of command, with the voice of an archangel, and with the sound of the trumpet of God. And the dead in Christ will rise first. 17 Then we who are alive, who are left, will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we will always be with the Lord.

AS WE WAIT FOR OUR ROLL CALL WE ARE TO ENCOURAGE ONE ANOTHER WITH THESE WORDS.

1. One day our Lord will come and snatch us away to always be with him.

- (1 Thessalonians 4:18 ESV) Therefore encourage one another with these words.
- (2 Corinthians 4:16–17 ESV) So we do not lose heart. Though our outer self is wasting away, our inner self is being renewed day by day. 17 For this light momentary affliction is preparing for us an eternal weight of glory beyond all comparison.

2. After our earthly “tent” gives out we will receive our eternal building from God.

- (2 Corinthians 5:1 ESV) 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.

3. We patiently wait for the day when we will be fully clothed in our salvation.

- (2 Corinthians 5:2–5 ESV) For in this tent we groan, longing to put on our heavenly dwelling, 3 if indeed by putting it on we may not be found

naked. 4 For while we are still in this tent, we groan, being burdened—not that we would be unclothed, but that we would be further clothed, so that what is mortal may be swallowed up by life. 5 He who has prepared us for this very thing is God, who has given us the Spirit as a guarantee.

4. We patiently wait for the day when we will no longer be naked but fully clothed for all eternity.

- (Genesis 3:7 ESV) Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths.
- (Genesis 3:9–10 ESV) But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself.”
- (Hebrews 4:13 ESV) And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account.
- (Isaiah 61:10a ESV) I will greatly rejoice in the Lord; my soul shall exult in my God, for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation; he has covered me with the robe of righteousness.
- (Philippians 3:9 ESV) And be found in him, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, the righteousness from God that depends on faith.

5. God has given us the Spirit as a guarantee of our new building.

- (2 Corinthians 1:21–22 ESV) And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, 22 and who has also put his seal on us and given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.
- (Ephesians 1:13–14 ESV) In him you also, when you heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and believed in him, were sealed with the promised Holy Spirit, 14 who is the guarantee of our inheritance until we acquire possession of it, to the praise of his glory.
- (Ephesians 4:30 ESV) And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption.