The Transition

Intro: In this lesson, I want us to consider what our transition will be like. Transition as used in this lesson is “to change from one state unto another.”

I. WHEN ONE OBEEYS THE GOSPEL

A. At baptism:
1. One has the remission of past sins.
   a. Mark 16:16 “16 He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.”
   b. Acts 2:38 “38 Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.”
2. He is added to the church.
   a. Mat. 28:19 “19 Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost:”
   b. 1 Cor. 12:13 “13 For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit.”
   c. Which Christ purchased with His blood; Acts 20:28 “28 Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.”
3. He is translated into the kingdom; Col. 1:12-14 “12 Giving thanks unto the Father, which hath made us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: 13 Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son: 14 In whom we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins;”

B. He enters that spiritual family of God.
1. 2 Cor. 5:17 “17 Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.”
2. 1 John 3:1 “1 Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not.”
3. We are no longer in the kingdom of Satan.

C. We put off the old man to put on the nature of our Father.
1. 2 Pet. 1:3-4 “3 According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue: 4 Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”
2. Rom. 12:1-2 “1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. 2 And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God.”
3. Col. 3:1-5 “1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. 2 Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth. 3 For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God. 4 When Christ, who is our life, shall appear, then shall ye also appear with him in glory. 5 Mortify therefore your members which are upon the earth; fornication, uncleanness, inordinate affection, evil concupiscence, and covetousness, which is idolatry:”
D. Even though we are in the world we are no longer of the world.
1. Jesus prayed in relation to the apostles (but applicable to us):
   a. John 15:18-19 “18 If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. 19 If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you.”
   b. John 17:15-16 “15 I pray not that thou shouldest take them out of the world, but that thou shouldest keep them from the evil. 16 They are not of the world, even as I am not of the world.”
2. 1 John 2:15-17 “15 Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. 16 For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. 17 And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever.”

II. WHEN A FAITHFUL CHRISTIAN DEPARTS THIS LIFE
A. Death
1. It is the separation of the body from the spirit.
   a. Jam. 2:26 “26 For as the body without the spirit is dead, so faith without works is dead also.”
   b. Carried away by the angels; Luke 16:22 “22 And it came to pass, that the beggar died, and was carried by the angels into Abraham’s bosom: the rich man also died, and was buried;”
2. There will be no second chance; the good or bad we have done will end.
3. The spiritual state we die in will be how we face judgment at the end of time.
   a. Heb. 9:27 “27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:”
   b. 2 Cor. 5:10 “10 For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.”
B. Ecc. 12:7 “7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
C. Those who die in the Lord will be blessed.
1. Rom. 6:23 “23 For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.”
2. 1 Cor. 15:58 “58 Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”
3. Rev. 14:13 “13 And I heard a voice from heaven saying unto me, Write, Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth: Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labours; and their works do follow them.”
D. All earthly associations and possessions will be left behind.
1. Job 1:21 “21 And said, Naked came I out of my mother’s womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD.”
2. Ecc. 5:15 “15 As he came forth of his mother’s womb, naked shall he return to go as he came, and shall take nothing of his labour, which he may carry away in his hand.”
3. 1 Tim. 6:7-8 “6 But godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out.”
4. Thus, our need to lay up treasures in heaven and not on earth.
   a. Mat. 6:19-21 “19 Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: 20 But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal: 21 For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”
b. Luke 12:15-21 “15 And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man’s life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth. 16 And he spake a parable unto them, saying, The ground of a certain rich man brought forth plentifully: 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, because I have no room where to bestow my fruits? 18 And he said, This will I do: I will pull down my barns, and build greater; and there will I bestow all my fruits and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided? 21 So is he that layeth up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

5. Not even marriage; Mat. 22:30 “30 For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.”

E. This intermediary stage is the hadean realm.
1. It is comprised of two parts:
   a. Paradise (also called Abraham’s bosom)
      (1) For those who have obeyed God.
      (2) They will be blessed.
   b. Tartarus
      (1) For those separated from God.
      (2) They will suffer punishment.
2. We are concerned with Paradise.
   a. A time of comfort; Luke 16:25 “25 But Abraham said, Son, remember that thou in thy lifetime receivedst thy good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things: but now he is comforted, and thou art tormented.”
   b. A time of waiting and rest; Rev. 6:10-11 “10 And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth? 11 And white robes were given unto every one of them; and it was said unto them, that they should rest yet for a little season, until their fellowservants also and their brethren, that should be killed as they were, should be fulfilled.”
   c. Phi. 1:21-23 “21 For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain. 22 But if I live in the flesh, this is the fruit of my labour: yet what I shall choose I wot not. 23 For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, and to be with Christ; which is far better:”

III. WHEN CHRIST COMES AGAIN
A. Those Christians who have died.
1. The spirit returned to God while the body went into the grave and corrupted; Ecc. 12:7 “7 Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was: and the spirit shall return unto God who gave it.”
2. The body will be raised; 1 Cor. 15:42-44 “42 So also is the resurrection of the dead. It is sown in corruption; it is raised in incorruption: 43 It is sown in dishonour; it is raised in glory: it is sown in weakness; it is raised in power: 44 It is sown a natural body, and it is raised a spiritual body.”
3. Jesus will bring the spirit back and it will join with the raised body; 1 The. 4:14-16 “14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so them also which sleep in Jesus will God bring with him. 15 For this we say unto you by the word of the Lord, that we which are alive and remain unto the coming of the Lord shall not prevent them which are asleep. 16 For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first:”
B. **Those Christians who are alive when He comes.**
   1. They will be transformed and given an immortal body.
   2. 1 Cor. 15:52-54 "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality. So when this corruptible shall have put on incorruption, and this mortal shall have put on immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in victory."
   3. 1 Th. 4:17 "Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord."

C. **We will face judgment.**
   1. Acts 17:30-31 "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now commandeth all men every where to repent: Because he hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead."
   2. 2 Cor. 5:10 "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

D. **Pass into eternity to be blessed forever.**
   1. Enter the joy of the Lord; Mat. 25:21 "His lord said unto him, Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord."
   2. Mat. 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"
   3. 1 Pet. 1:3-4 "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time."
   4. Rev. 21:4 "And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."

IV. **WHEN CHRIST RETURNS, THE PHYSICAL WORLD WILL CEASE TO EXIST.**
   A. **Premillennialist teach that when He returns He will set up His physical early kingdom.**
      1. During this time, He will rule for 1000 years in Jerusalem.
      2. That kingdom already exists and is the church.
      3. Brethren were translated into the kingdom:
         a. Col. 1:13 "Who hath delivered us from the power of darkness, and hath translated us into the kingdom of his dear Son:"
         b. Rev. 1:9 "I John, who also am your brother, and companion in tribulation, and in the kingdom and patience of Jesus Christ, was in the isle that is called Patmos, for the word of God, and for the testimony of Jesus Christ."
   B. **Instead the earth will be destroyed.**
      1. Mat. 24:35 "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away."
      2. 2 Pet. 3:7, 10-12 "But the heavens and the earth, which are now, by the same word are kept in store, reserved unto fire against the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. But, beloved, be not ignorant of this one thing, that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day. The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall
pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up. 11 Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy conversation and godliness, 12 Looking for and hasting unto the coming of the day of God, wherein the heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat?”

Conclusion: We would be wise to submit to the will of God as revealed in the Scriptures in being baptized for salvation and then remain faithful so when we transition from life to death, we will go into Paradise and then later to Heaven or if Christ comes while we are alive we will transition to Heaven.