



One of the chief blessings of the eternal state is that we will be **with Christ**, enjoying Him and His presence forever. I did not fully recognize the emphasis that the Scriptures give to this wonderful truth until recently. A Bible teacher shared with me numerous verses *which taken together* made a great impression upon my heart. Consider:

“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto Myself; **that where I am, there ye may be also**” (John 14:3).

To the thief on the cross Jesus said, “**Today shalt thou be with Me in paradise**” (Luke 23:43).

“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**” (1 Thess. 4:17).

“We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and **to be present with the Lord**” (2 Cor. 5:8).

“For I am in a strait betwixt two, having a desire to depart, **and to be with Christ; which is far better**” (Phil. 1:23).

“For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, **we should live together with Him**” (1 Thess. 5:9-10).

It is not only our desire to be with Christ, but it is God's desire and joy to be with us! “Father, I will (desire) that they also, whom Thou hast given Me, **be with Me where I am**; that they may behold My glory” (John 17:24). No more tears, no more death, no more sorrow, no more crying, no more pain are fantastic future realities (Rev. 21:4), but this dwarfs them all: “**God Himself shall be with them, and be their God**” (Rev. 21:3).

—George Zeller: www.middletonbiblechurch.org



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