

More Beyond



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¹https://biblehub.com/library/allen/autobiography_of_frank_g_allen_minister_of_the_gospel/iii_plus_ultra_vs_ne_plus.htm

²<https://bible.org/node/10347>. (The inside background image depicts this idea with “plus” inscribed under one lion and “ultra” inscribed under another lion.)

More Beyond

*“Spain is located in the great southwestern peninsula of Europe. It juts out between two seas as does no other country of that continent. Before the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus, the Spaniards prided themselves on the supposed fact that their country was the last point of solid land on the westward end of the earth. Beyond them, they thought, there was nothing but a vast expanse of water, a shoreless ocean, a mystery never to be solved. Consequently, the early coins of Spain gave prominence to this idea. Spain’s coins were indented with a picture of the pillars of Hercules, the two great sentries on each side of the straits of Gibraltar. Encircling these pillars on their coins was the Latin inscription, *ne plus ultra*, which means no more beyond. They imagined, therefore, that they constituted the limits of creation; that beyond them there was nothing.”¹*

The Spaniards’ belief of “no more beyond” is a perspective many people have today when it comes to topics of death, heaven, and life after we die. There are people who believe we cease to exist the moment we die, but Hebrews 9:27 states: “and inasmuch as it is appointed for men to die once and after this [comes] judgment.” God will judge everyone after we die. The question is, after your physical death will you stand before the judgment seat of Christ (2 Corinthians 5:10), which is for people who trusted in Jesus Christ for their salvation or will you stand before the great white throne judgment (Revelation 20:11-15), which is for people who did not trust in Jesus for their salvation?

Romans 3:23 says: “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God.” This very short verse explains the two reasons no one can enter the presence of God. The first reason is that we are sinful. Everyone sins and does things that are displeasing to God; we lie, steal, and hate. We have all sinned. The second reason we cannot enter the presence of God is that God is holy. To “fall short of the glory of God” means to miss the mark or standard that God has for entering His presence, a standard of perfect and complete holiness.

Suppose there was a contest with a 10-million-dollar prize and the requirement for winning the prize was you had to throw a baseball from the top of Stone Mountain to Truist Park, where the Atlanta Braves play baseball; a distance of around 18 miles. You may be able to throw the baseball farther than I can, but we would both fall short of the standard for winning the contest. No one can meet God’s standard of holiness. We all have fallen short of the glory of God.

A man once told me he could go anywhere he wanted after he died by just thinking or dreaming it into being, but that is not what the Bible reveals in Romans 6:23: “for the wages of sin is death...” Wages are things we earn. The death we earn is not just a physical death, it’s a spiritual death where everyone will spend eternity separated from God in a place called the lake of fire, a place of extreme pain and torment.

Romans 3:23 and the first part of Romans 6:23 gave us the bad news about our sin, but the second half of Romans 6:23 gives us the good news. It says, “...but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.” God sent His Son Jesus Christ to die on the cross for our sins. We cannot enter God’s presence by working for our salvation. No amount of good works or money will erase the consequences for our sins (Ephesians 2:8-9). However, Romans 5:8 states: “But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.”

Suppose you were to commit a crime so hideous that a judge sentenced you with the death penalty. Then suppose I were to go before the judge and tell him I would like to die in your place. If the judge granted my request to be your substitute, you would live, and I would die. That is exactly what Jesus Christ did for you and me. Jesus died in our place. God loves us so much that He sent His Son Jesus Christ to die in our place and pay the penalty for our sins. The gift of eternal life is free, by faith, and forever; it cannot be taken from you, and you cannot return the gift after it has been given to you (John 10:27-29; Romans 11:29). The free gift of eternal life begins the moment you believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died on the cross for your sins and rose from the dead. Jesus declared, “Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of death into life.” To believe is to trust. You must trust in Jesus, and Him alone, to forgive your sins and give you eternal life.

Before Columbus made his voyages, the Spaniards thought they had reached the outer limits of earth. Thus, their motto was “No More Beyond.” “In Spain where Christopher Columbus died in 1506, a monument stands commemorating the great discoverer. Perhaps the most interesting feature of the memorial is a statue of a lion destroying one of the Latin words that had been part of Spain’s motto for centuries. The word being torn away by the lion is the word ‘no.’ Instead of reading, ‘no more beyond,’ it now reads, ‘more beyond.’”²

The moment we die we do not cease to exist, and we cannot work our way into heaven by being good. The Apostle John, one of Jesus’ followers describes two groups of people in John 3:36. He states: “He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him.” So, in which group will you be when you die? Will you be in heaven or the lake of fire?

What would you say to God if you were to die today, stand before Him, and He asked you, “why should I let you into My heaven?” The only answer God will accept is, “I believe Jesus Christ is the Son of God who died on the cross for my sins and rose from the dead on the third day. I trust in Your Son, Jesus Christ, to forgive me of my sins and give me everlasting life.” I hope and pray you will trust in Jesus today...because there is more beyond.