

There is a classic episode that was shown on the Twilight Zone series on television a few years back.

As I remember it, a gambling man who wasn't very religious and didn't believe in the afterlife, was always shooting pool and betting on games — usually losing. Then, one day, he was killed suddenly and found himself in the afterlife.

Everyone there was very nice to him and he was led by his host to a giant room with a beautiful pool table. He was invited to play. He played and he won — it was a perfect game. He played again and again he won. He said: "This is great. I've never been so happy"

Day after day, over and over again, every game of pool he played he won without effort. Finally, one day, after winning yet another game he was noticeably let down, irritated, and even a little bored. His host inquired if anything was wrong. The man said:

"I appreciate winning all the time; but to be honest, it would make things a little more interesting if, once in awhile, I would lose. After all, winning all the time is not really that great and isn't heaven suppose to be perfection?"

His host turned to him and said, "Who said this is heaven?"

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Which got me to thinking again about what would heaven be like. There is the image, of course, of fluffy white clouds, white spotless gowns, and sort of floating along in perfect contentment. Then there is the thought of just being in the presence of God without any wants and in perfect satisfaction.

But of course, the situation is probably more complex than that: there will be other human souls around of which we should be able to recognize as having been close to us on earth. How will we act towards them?

And there will be angels. Exactly what will they be doing? Certainly we know they have a role in glorifying God and also working as “Guardians” of those on earth.

We know that we prepared for our vocations on earth — but what about our vocation in heaven? What should we be prepared to do. For example, we ask the saints in heaven to pray for us so we will be praying for people when we are in heaven. What else will be our jobs? Maybe that will be part of the questionnaire that St. Peter will be asking when we arrive.

Maybe now we shouldn't just think about what we are doing on earth but also, in some way, be preparing for what we think we will be doing in heaven — our Afterlife Vocation. That will take some imagination.

As for me, I would like heaven to be endless rows of In-N-Out hamburgers with fries that I will eat endlessly day after day ——

On second thought, Lord, — maybe not.