

Is Heaven Our Destination?

Introduction

1. I'm sure if each of us was asked if our destination was heaven that we would answer yes. But think about it – is heaven REALLY our destination?
2. If heaven really is our destination there would certainly be things that we would do because heaven is the place we truly want to be when our life on earth comes to an end.
 - A. One can say that heaven is our destination but the proof of that statement lies within how our lives reflect that reality.

Have We Obeyed the Gospel of Christ?

1. It is shown that we must do our Father's will in all things.

Matthew 7:21-23 Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, **but he who does the will of My Father in heaven**. Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'

2. God is calling all of us to Him and we must answer His call.

John 6:44-45 No one can come to Me unless the Father who sent Me draws him; and I will raise him up at the last day. It is written in the prophets, 'And they shall all be taught by God.' **Therefore everyone who has heard and learned from the Father comes to Me.**

2 Thessalonians 2:14 to which **He called you by our gospel**, for the obtaining of the glory of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- 3. Through His word we must realize that it is only His gospel that has the power in which to save us.**

Romans 1:16 For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for **it is the power of God to salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.

- 4. In order to properly obey the gospel of Christ, we must realize through the word, that it took the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus to allow me to have forgiveness of sins.**

1 Corinthians 15:1-4

- A. We are baptized into the death of Christ through baptism. We must obey God's Word and be baptized in order to be washed in the blood of Christ.**

Romans 6:1-5, 17-18

- 5. God's plan of salvation must be obeyed in order for us to be saved.**

- A. Hear**

Romans 10:17

- B. Believe**

Hebrews 11:6

John 1:12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name:

- C. Repent**

Acts 17:30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent,

- D. Confess Christ**

Acts 8:37 Then Philip said, "If you believe with all your heart, you may." And he answered and said, "I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God."

- E. Be baptized**

Acts 2:38

- 6. We all have the freedom of choice. We all make choices in life. We choose whether to obey the teaching of God or not. But if we choose not to obey, here are the consequences:
2 Thessalonians 1:7-9**

Are Our Affections Set Above?

- 1. If our destination is really heaven, then it will be evident in our life based upon the things in which we seek.**

Colossians 3:1-2 If then you were raised with Christ, **seek those things which are above**, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.

- 2. As a result, we will be laying up heavenly treasure rather than earthly treasure.**

Matthew 6:19-21 Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; but **lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven**, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

- 3. When we have made the commitment in our lives to seek the things above, then we will not have a love of this world.
1 John 2:15-17**
- 4. Our friendship will be first and primarily with those of like precious faith, not those of the world.**

James 4:4 Adulterers and adulteresses! Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? **Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God.**

Are We Growing in Christ?

1. **We are instructed to grow. When we set our destination on heaven, then we will want to grow as a Christian and it will be evident to others.**

1 Peter 2:1-2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all deceit, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word**, that you may grow thereby

Hebrews 5:12-14

2. **We will grow in both the grace and knowledge of Christ**
2 Peter 3:18
3. **As we grow we will continue to add and strengthen Christian characteristics to our life.**
2 Peter 1:5-11
4. **Our work in the Lord will abound!**
1 Corinthians 15:58
5. **Our whole life becomes the very gospel of Christ.**

Philippians 1:27 Only **let your conduct be worthy of the gospel of Christ**, so that whether I come and see you or am absent, I may hear of your affairs, that you stand fast in one spirit, with one mind **striving together for the faith of the gospel**

Are We Proving Ourselves Faithful in All Things?

1. **We will not forsake the assembly. If we say that Heaven is really our destination, then we will make sure that we are proving ourselves faithful to God in all things.**

Hebrews 10:22-25

2. **Our great faith will help us to press on without growing weary.**

Galatians 6:9 And let us **not grow weary while doing good**, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.

3. **We will be committed to run our race in such a way that we will ensure that we reach our heavenly destination.**

1 Corinthians 9:24-27

4. **We must remain faithful in order to receive our eternal reward.**

Revelation 2:10 Do not fear any of those things which you are about to suffer. Indeed, the devil is about to throw some of you into prison, that you may be tested, and you will have tribulation ten days. **Be faithful until death, and I will give you the crown of life.**

Conclusion

1. **If we, as Christians, say that heaven is our destination, then we must live our lives in such a way that others can truly see this.**
2. **There are many hypocrites in the world today, just as there were long ago during the time of Christ.**
3. **We need Christians to be faithful and determined to reach their destination of heaven.**
 - A. **Remember, God is watching us – and will judge us.**
4. **Is heaven really your destination?**

Invitation

Place _____

Date _____

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