

Longing for Heaven, My Eternal Home

Introduction

- 1. The Bible begins with man in Paradise.**
 - A. Because of man's choice to sin, his loss was vast.**
 - 1) Man's sin brought imperfection to both him and his world.**
 - 2) He lost spiritual perfection.**
 - a) However, through Christ we can now have access to our eternal home called heaven!**
- 2. The subject of heaven is both neglected and misunderstood.**
 - A. Not a lot of material about heaven in print.**
 - 1) There is much, much more material about hell.**
 - B. There are many wrong ideas about heaven.**
 - 1) Peter at the gate.**
 - 2) Everyone gets wings and a halo.**
 - 3) All roles and relationships are the same as on earth.**
 - 4) Everyone is going there.**

C. Our ignorance is seen in our misuse of the word.

- 1) **Someone returns from Hawaii and says, "It was heaven".**
- 2) **You eat a piece of chocolate and say, "This is heavenly."**
- 3) **Often times our casual use of the word shows our lack of appreciation.**

3. **This lesson is derived on what the Bible says concerning the home that every Christian should long for.**

Where Is Heaven?

1. **The Bible speaks of three heavens.**

A. The first is the sky.

Isaiah 55:10 "For as the rain comes down, and the snow from heaven, and do not return there, but water the earth, and make it bring forth and bud, that it may give seed to the sower and bread to the eater,

B. The second is the solar system.

Psalms 8:3 When I consider Your heavens, the work of Your fingers, the moon and the stars, which You have ordained,

C. The third heaven is God's dwelling.

2 Corinthians 12:2 I know a man in Christ who fourteen years ago-- whether in the body I do not know, or whether out of the body I do not know, God knows-- such a one was caught up to the third heaven.

2. We can conclude heaven is up:

Matthew 28:2 And behold, there was a great earthquake; for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven, and came and rolled back the stone from the door, and sat on it.

John 1:32 And John bore witness, saying, "I saw the Spirit descending from heaven like a dove, and He remained upon Him.

- A. Jesus came down to earth from heaven and went up to go back. (Luke 9:51; Acts 1:2, 9)**

3. Heaven is a real place.

- A. It is not a state of mind on earth.**

- B. Real people are in a real heaven.**

Acts 7:55 But he, being full of the Holy Spirit, gazed into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God,

Revelation 6:9-10 When He opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of those who had been slain for the word of God and for the testimony which they held. And they cried with a loud voice, saying, "How long, O Lord, holy and true, until You judge and avenge our blood on those who dwell on the earth?"

- C. If we cannot believe in heaven, we cannot believe in anything spiritual.**

- D. Heaven is in existence right now.**

What Is Heaven Like?

1. It is a place of reward.

Matthew 5:12 "Rejoice and be exceedingly glad, for great is your reward in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.

A. It is not a reward of achievement but of faithfulness.

Matthew 25:23 "His lord said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord.'

B. "In the judgment day, the Lord will not ask how many souls we saved but how often we tried."

2. A place where God's will is done.

Matthew 6:10 Your kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

A. Problems come because we want our own way.

B. There will be no conflicts in heaven because there will be only one Will.

3. Heaven is a place of rejoicing.

Luke 15:7 "I say to you that likewise there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine just persons who need no repentance.

A. Angels rejoice right now.

B. When we get there, we will share this joy.

4. Heaven is a place of different roles and relationships.

Matthew 22:29-30 Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. "For in the resurrection they neither marry nor are given in marriage, but are like angels of God in heaven.

- A. Some say, "If I get to heaven and ____ is not there, I can't be satisfied."**
- B. Our present relationships will be changed. This does not mean we will not know each other. Over the years, our relationship with our mother went through several changes. Yet she was still our mother.**

5. In heaven, we are through with sin.

- A. Sin is and should be a cause of distress in this life.**

2 Peter 2:6-8 and turning the cities of Sodom and Gomorrah into ashes, condemned them to destruction, making them an example to those who afterward would live ungodly; and delivered righteous Lot, who was oppressed by the filthy conduct of the wicked (for that righteous man, dwelling among them, tormented his righteous soul from day to day by seeing and hearing their lawless deeds)--

6. Heaven is a place of rest.

Revelation 14:13 Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."

- A. It will be the end of our earthly toil.**

7. **Heaven is a place of beauty and wonder.**
 - A. **If God made this world so beautiful, what is heaven like?**
 - B. **Heaven is so wonderful that it can only be described in figurative language.**

A rich man once asked the Lord to let him take some of his possessions to heaven. The Lord finally allowed him to take one suitcase. The man decided to fill the suitcase with gold. When he got to the gates, Peter told him he couldn't take anything with him. The man protested that the Lord told him he could bring one suitcase. Peter said, "Show me what you brought." The man opened the suitcase and showed Peter the gold. "Well," Peter said, "I guess you can go in but I don't understand why you brought pavement with you."

8. **Heaven is a place where there are no more tears.**
Revelation 7:15-17

Who Is Going to Heaven?

1. **How tragic that some think that everyone is going to heaven.**
Matthew 7:21
 - A. **If everyone is going there, heaven means nothing.**
 - 1) **If all go to heaven, why have a hell?**
 - 2) **How would you feel if unrepentant Adolph Hitler or Sadaam Hussien lived next door to you?**
 - B. **Heaven is prepared for only a prepared people.**

2. It is prepared for its citizens.

Philippians 3:20 For our citizenship is in heaven, from which we also eagerly wait for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ,

A. We live on earth but our real citizenship is in heaven.

B. One day we will go where we belong.

3. The people who go to heaven are those who want to badly enough.

A. The key to heaven is in our will.

B. Never forget that the way to heaven is open. Any person can go there if they want to go badly enough.

Mark 9:43-47

C. To get there, we must want to go to heaven more than anything else in the world.

Conclusion

1. Heaven should be our incentive to spiritual growth.

A. The fear of hell should motivate the sinner to repent.

B. The hope of heaven should motivate us to prepare to go there.

