

The Promise Of Heaven

Series: Promises, Promises

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“Do not let your heart be troubled; believe in God, believe also in Me. “In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. “If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. – John 14:1-3

“Father, I desire that they also, whom You have given Me, be with Me where I am, so that they may see My glory which You have given Me, for You loved Me before the foundation of the world. – John 17:24

I. We Must Want To Go To Heaven

Our walk with God can only end in heaven. This mean heaven cannot be an _____.
We must want to go to heaven more than anything on earth. That is the challenge!

We must _____ for it. – 2 Corinthians 5:1-10, 14-15

Epictetus said, “The fault of life is treating things as final which are not final. As if a man journeying home and finding a nice inn on the road, and liking it, were to stay forever at the inn. Man, thou hast forgotten thine object; thy journey is not *to* this, but *through* this.”

The Hebrew writer reminds us, “These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off, and were persuaded of them, and embraced them, and confessed that they were strangers and pilgrims on the earth. For they that say such things declare plainly that they seek a country” – Hebrews 11:13-14

“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. “For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it. – Matthew 7:13-14

We must see ourselves as _____.

Do not love the world nor the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh and the lust of the eyes and the boastful pride of life, is not from the Father, but is from the world. The world is passing away, and *also* its lusts; but the one who does the will of God lives forever. – 1 John 2:15-17

To go to heaven means that Jesus must be our _____.

Therefore if you have been raised up with Christ, keep seeking the things above, where Christ is, seated at the right hand of God. Set your mind on the things above, not on the things that are on earth. For you have died and your life is hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our life, is revealed, then you also will be revealed with Him in glory. – Colossians 3:1-4

II. Without Heaven – Earth Makes No Sense

Having the right perspective about life and heaven helps us with our lives on earth. Stephen in Acts 7 fascinates us with his courage and maturity showing love for his enemies. How could he do that?

“Being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God” – Acts 7:55

He saw _____! Those who did the most on earth are those who thought of the next. Hebrews 11 proves this. It is a prepared place for a prepared people. We must get ready to go meet our God.

“The Spirit and the bride say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who hears say, ‘Come.’ And let the one who is thirsty come; let the one who wishes take the water of life without cost” – Revelation 22:17

III. Heaven Is More Than A Place It Is A Person

Heaven is the only place where the _____ exceeds expectations. It’s beautiful, peaceful, and wonderful! However the glory of heaven isn’t the paved streets of gold or the pearly gates its who’s there that makes heaven so glorious.

And I heard a loud voice from the throne, saying, “Behold, the tabernacle of God is among men, and He will dwell among them, and they shall be His people, and God Himself will be among them, and He will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be *any* death; there will no longer be *any* mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.” And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” – Revelation 21:3-5

My reason for going to heaven and living obediently is not to avoid punishment but to be with Jesus. I’m not concerned about rewards, praise, glory, or honor. The goal of every Christian is to glorify Christ in life and death!

In heaven we can see God and be with God and yet live! The great joy of heaven will come in the literal presence of God!

How do we get there?

“If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. “And you know the way where I am going.” Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” **Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.** – John 14:3-6

Then one of the elders answered, saying to me, “These who are clothed in the white robes, who are they, and where have they come from?” I said to him, “My lord, you know.” And he said to me, “These are the ones who come out of the great tribulation, and **they have washed their robes and made them white in the blood of the Lamb.** “For this reason, they are before the throne of God; and they serve Him day and night in His temple; and He who sits on the throne will spread His tabernacle over them. “They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.” – Revelation 7:13-17