

WHEN WE ALL GET TO HEAVEN

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INTRODUCTION:

A. Some of our favorite songs to sing talk about heaven & going there:

1. Just think about some of these songs for a moment:
 - a. When All Of God's Singers Get Home → Speaks about the joy of surrounding God's throne with one another and sing praises to Him for eternity
 - b. Heaven Will Surely Be Worth It All → A reminder! No matter what it is we go through here, it is put into perspective by Heaven... it's worth everything!
 - c. No Tears In Heaven → What will not be in Heaven – No sorrows, pains, sickness
2. These songs bring to mind grand thoughts we hold dear to our hearts! We sing them when we our joyous and we sing them when we're down!

B. This morning I want us to talk about Heaven – What should Heaven mean to Christians? It's a subject we love to think about, but it greatly impacts our lives!

I. WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN:

A. The greatest reason I have for wanting to go to heaven is who will be there:

1. I firmly believe we can sometimes squash our desire for heaven by having too materialistic a view of what Heaven will be like! **(2 Cor 5:2-4)**
 - a. Some view Heaven quite like we might view Disney World – A “magical kingdom” with pretty things to touch & look at → As we get older it loses its magic!
 - b. Seeing it in material terms alone is hurtful since we live in a rich society! With all of our material wealth, Heaven may lose its impressiveness to us!
 - c. It's spiritually fatal to get so comfortable here that we quit longing for Heaven!
2. When Jesus returned to Heaven, He returned to prepare a mansion for us; however, notice what the purpose of that mansion is: **(John 14:1-4)**
 - a. The disciples became quite upset as Jesus spoke of His death since they wanted to always be with Him... How could they if He died & ascended to the Father?
 - b. Jesus' point behind the mansion is not about visualize a white four story 25 room structure with 8 ornate columns and a white picket fence!
 - c. Because the disciples were stuck on thinking physically Jesus had to describe it this way – The point of the mansion is so we can be with Jesus in Heaven!
3. Heaven is going to be a great place because of the great company there! **(Heb. 12:22-24)**
 - a. This is something all who are children of God are part of today! It's God's kingdom!
 - b. Part of this mountain extends up into Heaven and part of it is still on earth in us!
 - c. It's this great company we will be with eternally in Heaven – God the father, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, all the angels, and all the redeemed of all time!
4. Part of what will make Heaven what it is and what it will be is who will be there:
 - a. I look forward to the day where I will be able to talk to people like Peter, Paul, Abraham, and Esther – It will be filled with the cream of the crop of all time!
 - b. Many who I've known in this life who I greatly miss, I will get to see once again
 - c. Showing my thankfulness of Jesus in person, worship the Father in person, and see the Holy Spirit in person – Now through the eye of faith, then in its fulness!

B. Another reason I want to go to heaven is because of what we will do there:

1. The scriptures really reveal very little about what will be going on when we get to Heaven:
 - a. In fact, the New Testament speaks far more often about Hell than it does Heaven
 - b. What we have to do is look at passages that show what's going on right now or has gone in Heaven and we get a little glimpse into what it will be like!
2. The best picture of the activities in Heaven comes from John's description of the throne room of God **(Revelation 4:8-11; 5:9-14)**
 - a. Picture these scenes in your mind – While John is writing in apocalyptic, or symbolic, language he's trying to describe what he sees & hears in Heaven!
 - b. What is the main activity of those who are in Heaven? Worshipping God – By

- bowing down before Him, praising Him in words, and praising Him in song!
 - c. This is exactly what the song, “On Zion’s Glorious Summit” is talking about!
 - d. **Question:** If spending time with saints, singing, and worshipping God is not enjoyable to you now – What makes you think you’ll enjoy Heaven?
- 3. The activities in Heaven will be part of what makes it Heaven!
 - a. The thought of surrounding the throne of God with all the saved of all time singing praises to God and worshipping Him for eternity is an awesome picture!
 - b. There wont be any worries about being too tired, about my voice not holding up, or not sounding good! We’ll join perfectly with the angels with perfect voices!
 - c. All of the limitations we experience because of physical bodies will be removed!

C. There are some things that wont be there that makes me want to go there!

- 1. Part of living here on earth is being susceptible to sorrow, sickness, pain, and temptation!
 - a. Because of Adam & Eve’s sin the earth is subjected to futility (**Romans 8:20-22**)
 - b. But notice, that God subjected us and the earth to imperfection in hope! - He did it in hope that it would cause us groan and work for something better – Heaven!
 - c. While God wants us to enjoy life and His creation, we have never been meant to get too comfortable with our lives here!
- 2. One great characteristic of Heaven is the absence of these troubles (**Rev. 7:15-17**)
 - a. In particular this is the picture of saints who had suffered great persecution, many of them even died, for the cause of Christ and their faith in Him
 - b. The pains of daily life are removed, Jesus leads us to fountains of living waters, and God wipes away all the tears from our eyes!
- 3. Probably more familiar to us is John’s description of the New Jerusalem (**Rev. 21:3-4**)
 - a. It seems John’s description is two-fold – Coming out of Heaven it certainly shows what Heaven is like, but as the “Bride” it would also describe the church
 - b. Notice again what’s not in Heaven – Tears, death, sorry, crying, and pain!
- 4. As we consider this description of Heaven, it provides great encouragement to us!
 - a. Some of you are suffering from physical problems that are quite painful and the rest of us feel them from time to time – These pains will be no more!
 - b. We won’t have to endure any longer the sorrow from things like the death of loved ones, disappointment due to sin, and the separation of friends
 - c. Heaven is also a place where we won’t have to face the temptations from the devil!

D. I also want to go to heaven because the alternative is not an option!

- 1. The Bible only gives us two options for where we’ll spend eternity – Heaven & Hell!
 - a. Some people believe in a place called “Purgatory” – A temporary Hell of sorts where a person suffers until he pays off sins & then gets to enter Heaven
 - b. Neither Jesus or any writer in the New Testament recognized such a place!
 - c. **Illustration:** People minimize Hell – Describe it as being eternally in whatever you hate the most here (guys 24/7 soaps... girls 24/7 ESPN)
- 2. Simply put, Hell is a place of great suffering, pain, and torment! (**Mark 9:43-48**)
 - a. The agony of Hell is so horrible that Jesus is teaching to take whatever drastic measures we find it necessary to take in order to ensure we don’t go there!
 - b. It’s described as being a place of eternal fire – Literally, the fire never goes out!
 - c. While the rich man was in the hades realm & not in the fullness of Hell, His account shows a glimpse of the pain experienced there (**Luke 16:23-25**)
- 3. The horrible nature of Hell is compounded when we think about who will be there!
 - a. Just as Heaven will be great because of who’ll be there, Hell will be so horrible because of who’ll there! The company alone makes me not want to go there!
 - b. Hell is a place prepared as punishment for the devil and his angels! (**Passage**)
 - c. Even though God did not design Hell with the intentions of sending men there, it will be filled with men... wicked, immoral, and lawless! (**Rev. 21:8**)
- 4. Hell is an eternal punishment... a never-ending punishment! (**Rev. 20:10; 2 Thess 1:9**)
 - a. Some teach Hell is temporary – A one time destruction where the soul is consumed

- b. Remember what Jesus said – It's where the worm does not die and the fire is not quenched! If it's not eternal, then what would be the point of what Jesus said?
- c. Just as life with God in Heaven is eternal, death in Hell is eternal! **(Rom. 6:23)**

II. HOW OUR DESIRE FOR HEAVEN IMPACTS US TODAY:

A. If want to go to Heaven, we must live like we came from there!

1. Heaven is really the end result of people who choose to go there!
 - a. **Illustration:** Day of judgment a person hears, "Enter In" to which he responds, "Wow... I wasn't even trying to go to Heaven... what a surprise!"
 - b. Not everyone is making the choice to go to Heaven – Do you want to go to Heaven? Does your priorities, obedience, and response to sin show it?
2. If Heaven is our home, there is a certain resolution we must have about it! **(Acts 11:23)**
 - a. We must keep on keeping on – Refusing to let discouragement or detours along the way rob us of our eternal dwelling place!
 - b. Resolve not to make dumb choices that would jeopardize Heaven! **(Heb. 12:1-2)**
 - c. Some say they want to go, however, they act like that's the last place they are going! Decisions are not made with Heaven in mind, but the here and now!
3. Living like Heaven is our home is going to take self-discipline! **(1 Cor. 9:27)**

B. If we truly groan for Heaven, it puts our experiences here in perspective!

1. Our troubles will lessen as we compare them to the glories that'll follow **(Rom 8:17-18)**
 - a. **Illustration:** Viewing what we face here as being a dot on the line of eternity
 - b. Whenever we are facing a difficult time, whether through suffering or persecution, try to focus your mind on the reasons why you want to go to Heaven!
 - c. Things may get so difficult at times you may even consider giving up – But really, what is possibly worth losing Heaven over? **(Mark 8:36)**
2. Sometimes we become so wrapped up in the temporary we lose sight of the eternal!
 - a. What happens when your football team loses? When something spiritual gets planned that interferes with our fun how do we respond? What do we live for?
 - b. **Illustration:** When someone talks about you, what do they talk about? Great card player, basketball player, nice car, good golfer, funny person? *A Christian?*
 - c. Listen to how Solomon described temporary pursuits – **(Ecclesiastes 2:10-11)**
3. Those who long for Heaven will have lives that reflection it! What does your life show?

CONCLUSION: Why do you want to go to Heaven? Do you want to go to Heaven bad enough that you will live in such a way to be sure not to miss it?