

WHY I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN

Int.

1. Aim: To explain some of the reasons why I desire to go to heaven
2. Rev. 21:1-22:7 "And I saw a new heaven and a new earth:..."
3. 1 Cor. 15:19-22 "If in this life only we have hope in Christ, we are of all men most miserable."
 - a. We would be most miserable if we didn't have any better thing to look forward to than what we have in this world.
 - b. I don't think any one cares to live in this world forever. A world of: sickness, death, suffering, disappointment, misunderstanding, remorse, war -- a WORLD of tears and woe!
4. Paul was tired of this life on earth
 - a. Rom. 7:24 "O wretched man that I am! who shall deliver me from the body of this death?"
 - b. Phil. 1:21-24 Paul said: "For me to live is Christ, and to die is gain." Phil. 1:21
 - c. He knew that our hearts longed for a better land.
 - d. One with unending delight and joy, a place of rest.
 - e. A place without sad partings and goodbyes. We don't like to say good by to those we love dearer than life.
 - f. It won't be long until the weary march of life is over, and all of us who are prepared will soon be at home with the Lord.
5. We should be very sincere about our desire to go to heaven
6. Why do we want to go to heaven?

Discussion

I. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO GO TO HELL

A. Many people don't believe in hell

1. How can anyone believe in heaven without believing in hell?
2. If I am not prepared for heaven when life is over, I will be prepared for hell.
3. There are just two places man can spend eternity.
4. John 5:28-29 mentions both heaven and hell "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear his voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation."
5. If man goes to hell it will be his own fault - Gal. 6:7-8 "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap. 8. For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting."

B. Bible talks about Divine punishment 5 times as much as it does about divine reward

1. Mt. 25:31-46 - separate sheep from goats, left and right
2. Mt. 25:46 "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal."
3. There is good reason for knowing about hell and fearing it. It is a place of eternal or everlasting punishment. It is not annihilation. It will last forever.
4. It is one of the reasons for wanting to go to heaven.

II. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE IT IS NOT CROWDED

- A. John 14:1-6 - many mansions
- B. Rev. 21:16-17 "And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal. 17. And he measured the wall thereof, an hundred and forty and four cubits, according to the measure of a man, that is, of the angel."
 - 1. Description in terms that we can understand
 - 2. 12,000 furlongs = 1500 miles cube - foursquare
 - 3. Silly for people to worry about whether there will be enough room.
- C. There will be plenty of room in that beautiful place for all those who are ready.

III. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE OF ITS BEAUTY

- A. John was describing heaven - Rev. 21
 - 1. He saw something greater than he had ever seen before. He tries very hard to describe it to us.
 - 2. It is difficult to describe something very beautiful to people so they will understand. You finally tell them, "You will just have to go and see it for yourself."
- B. 1 Cor. 2:9-10 "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. 10. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God."

C. I sa. 64:4 "For since the beginning of the world men have not heard, nor perceived by the ear, neither hath the eye seen, O God, beside thee, what he hath prepared for him that waiteth for him."

1. Man can't imagine anything as beautiful as the place God has prepared for his own
2. We may think that the trees, birds, mountains, meadows, sunset and all other beautiful things of this life are great. But in heaven are things we can't even imagine what they are like.
3. Heaven is just too good and too beautiful to miss. If you miss heaven, then you have missed it all.

IV. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE OF ITS MUSIC

A. Paul says "ear hath not heard." 1 Cor. 2:9

1. The music that will surround the throne of God is beyond comparison.
2. We love the hymns of praise that we sing in worship to God.
3. These will not even compare to that music in heaven.

B. When we gather around the throne of God in heaven we will sing his praises throughout all eternity. This is the only part of our worship here that will be continued in heaven.

1. Prayer - no longer needed - we will be face to face with God.
2. Preaching - no longer needed - No preaching in heaven.
3. Giving - no longer needed - streets of Gold.
4. Lord's Supper - no longer needed - Will be with Christ and not have to be reminded of his sacrifice.
5. Singing will be continued - praises to God.

V. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE I AM INVITED AND WILL BE

WELCOMED

- A. We don't like to go to places where we are uninvited and unwelcome.
- B. Mt. 25:41 "Then shall he say also unto them on the left hand, Depart from me, ye cursed, into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels:"
1. We are not wanted in hell
 2. Hell was not made originally for man
 3. Man goes to hell because of his own ignorance and sin
- C. Mt. 25:34 "Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world:"
1. We are all invited to heaven
 2. Christ laid down his life for our sins
 3. The Holy Spirit has revealed to us the Gospel plan of salvation.
 4. It is now our responsibility to do our part.
- D. The Bible is an invitation
1. I sa. 1:18 "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord: though your sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool."
 2. Jn. 6:37 "All that the Father giveth me shall come to me; and him that cometh to me I will in no wise cast out."
 3. Rev. 22:17 "And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely."

4. Mt. 11:28-30 "Come unto me, all [ye] that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls. 30. For my yoke [is] easy, and my burden is light."

VI. I WANT TO GO TO HEAVEN BECAUSE OF THE PEOPLE THERE

- A. I would hate to know that I would have to live forever with the selfish, ungodly, fearful, unbelieving, liars, gamblers, murderers, backbiters, gossipers, meddlers, gangsters, and all the wicked people that ever lived.
- B. In heaven:
1. God will be there. -- Ecl. 5:2 "Be not rash with thy mouth, and let not thine heart be hasty to utter any thing before God: for God is in heaven, and thou upon earth: therefore let thy words be few."
 2. Christ will be there. Rev. 22:4 "And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads."
 3. All the faithful will be there. - Eph. 3:15 "Of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named,"
 4. Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Isaiah, Peter, Paul, John, and all the redeemed of all the ages will be there.
- C. Just think how sweet it will be when this life is over to hear Jesus say, "Well done thou good and faithful servant. Enter thou into the joys of the Lord."

CONCLUSION

1. I want to go to heaven because:
 - a. I don't want to go to hell
 - b. God has plenty of room
 - c. It is beautiful
 - d. It has beautiful music
 - e. I am invited and welcomed
 - f. Of the people there.
2. Why do you want to go to heaven?
3. I desire to go to heaven because I can make it mine!
 - a. Some things in life I desire and I cannot accomplish - I would like to be an Astronaut.
 - b. But I know I can make heaven mine - 1 Jn. 5:13 "These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God."
4. We all can Make it because we can obey God and live for Him.