

Series: Heaven: My Forever Home

C.R. 8-26-18

“Some Questions Concerning Heaven”

Text: 1 John 3:2

Intro: I must admit the thought of Heaven has filled most of my waking thoughts of late. I realize that much of this is because I am studying to preach about but there is another reason as well. As a Pastor I must be a part of a lot of painful situations. I don't care how old someone is, or if we can see death coming from a mile away we are never ready to part with someone we love. Death is death, and whether it be sudden or anticipated it hurts. I just cannot imagine what people do who do not know the Lord. Lately my soul has been thrilled with the Holy Spirit inspired writing of Paul in 1 Thessalonians as he comforts us with what is going to happen. Isn't it great of God to inform us of what is to come so we can have hope.

The Hope of Heaven bring great comfort to the families of those dying and the dying who know the Lord. In my study I have stared down some questions about Heaven, and I will be honest not all have been answered. Some are answered emphatically, some are not. I also know that I don't have to know everything about Heaven to be excited about it. I know it's where He is, and that is all that matters to me. Let's take a look at a few of those questions.

1) Will We Know One Another In Heaven?

- a. When asked if we would recognize friends in Heaven, George MacDonald responded, “Shall we be greater fools in Paradise than we are here?”
- b. Christ's disciples recognized him countless times after his resurrection. They recognized him on the shore as he cooked breakfast for them (John 21:1-14). They recognized him when he appeared to a skeptical Thomas (John 20:24-29). They recognized him when he appeared to five hundred people at once (1 Corinthians 15:6).
- c. Christ's disciples recognized the bodies of Moses and Elijah, even though the disciples couldn't have known what the two men looked like (Luke 9:29-33). This may suggest that personality will emanate through a person's body, so we'll instantly recognize people we know of but haven't previously met. If we can recognize those we've never seen, how much more will we recognize our family and friends?
- d. Part of the joy of Heaven will be reconnecting with those we faced tough times with and celebrating together.
- e. I believe that I will know Alex as Alex my daughter and Hayden my son, but they are first His Son and Daughter.
- f. **Missionary Amy Carmichael had** strong convictions on this question: Shall we know one another in Heaven? Shall we love and remember? I do not think anyone need wonder about this or doubt for a single moment. We are never told we shall, because, I expect, it was not necessary to say anything about this which our own hearts tell us. We do not need words. For if we think for a minute, we know. Would you be yourself if you did not love and remember? . . . We are told that we shall be like our Lord Jesus. Surely this does not mean in holiness only, but in everything; and does not He know and love and remember? He would not be Himself if He did not, and we should not be ourselves if we did not.

2) Will There Be Families In Heaven?

- a. I certainly believe that there will be families in Heaven.
- b. As a matter of fact we will all be family.
- c. We'll have family relationships with people who were our blood family on Earth. But we'll also have family relationships with our friends, both old and new.
- d. We will realize in Heaven what real family is, and what God intended for it to be.
- e. He will fulfill the longing that every heart has ever had for what the family was meant to be.

3) Will There Be Marriage in Heaven?

- a. Yes. There will be One. Between Christ and his bride.
- b. The Sadducees tried to trick Jesus with a question about marriage in Heaven . They didn't believe in the resurrection of the dead. Let's look at what went down.
- c. Read Matthew 22: 23-30
- d. (Randy Alcorn) Earthly marriage is a shadow, a copy, an echo of the true and ultimate marriage. Once that ultimate marriage begins, at the Lamb's wedding feast, all the human marriages that pointed to it will have served their noble purpose and will be assimilated into the one great marriage they foreshadowed. "The purpose of marriage is not to replace Heaven, but to prepare us for it."
- e. I have no doubt that in Heaven the only person who will know me better than Jesus in Michelle, and I believe that I will greatly enjoy her company in heaven. We will rejoice together as we worship the King. We will be with the one we love the most, and I will not be jealous.
- f. Randy Alcorn. On Earth, the closer we draw to him, the closer we draw to each other. Surely the same will be true in Heaven. What an honor it will be to always know that God chose us for each other on this old Earth so that we might have a foretaste of life with him on the New Earth. People with good marriages are each other's best friends. There's no reason to believe they won't still be best friends in Heaven.

4) What About Children?

- a. Fact: We are born sinners. Fact: Scripture does not teach an "age of accountability." Fact : Any person's salvation comes only through Christ's work. (John 3:3) Unless a person is born again, he or she can't enter God's Kingdom.
- b. Fact: Jesus loves children. He taught that we need to be like children to enter God's kingdom.
- c. Mat 18:10 Take heed that ye despise not one of these little ones; for I say unto you, That in heaven their angels do always behold the face of my Father which is in heaven.
- d. David Speaks of his child that died in 2Sa 12:23 But now he is dead, wherefore should I fast? can I bring him back again? I shall go to him, but he shall not return to me.
- e. Deu 1:39 Moreover your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, and your children, which in that day had no knowledge between good and evil, they shall go in thither, and unto them will I give it, and they shall possess it.
- f. John the Baptist was filled with the Spirit in the womb. This suggest that God did a sanctifying work on John while he was too young to confess his sinfulness.

- g. I believe that God knows what he is doing and that He has a special covering for children and the childlike.

5) Do People in Heaven Know What is Happening on Earth?

- a. There are some scripture that say yes.
- b. **Rev 6:9** And when he had opened the fifth seal, I saw under the altar the souls of them that were slain for the word of God, and for the testimony which they held:
- c. **Rev 6:10** And they cried with a loud voice, saying, How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?
- d. These slain martyrs are aware of what is going on.
- e. Will God purge our memories? I want to say yes, but scripture does not support that.
- f. I can say that when we are in Heaven we will be preoccupied with the joys of Heaven.
- g. Illustrate: Lots of horrible things going on but you still had fun at the beach, lake, etc..
- h. We also will approve of the judgments of God.
- i. **2Th 1:7** And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels,
- j. **2Th 1:8** In flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ:
- k. **2Th 1:9** Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power;
- l. **2Th 1:10** When he shall come to be glorified in his saints, and to be admired in all them that believe (because our testimony among you was believed) in that day.
- m. **Randy Alcorn** We'll never question God's justice, wondering how he could send good people to Hell. Rather, we'll be overwhelmed with his grace, marveling at what he did to send bad people to Heaven. (We will no longer have any illusion that fallen people are good without Christ.) In Heaven we'll see clearly that God revealed himself to each person and that he gave opportunity for each heart.
- n. **Robert Jeffress**: We can add with certainty that our awareness of anything happening on earth or in hell is incapable of diminishing the fullness of our joy in that place called heaven.
- o. Remember. God may not wipe our memory, but he will wipe our tears.