

Heaven

Don't miss it for the world!

By Conrad Barrett

The human mind has never grasped the splendor and beauty of that eternal place which we call heaven. Mentioned over five hundred times in various parts of the Bible and described only in part, is that city of mansions which Jesus Christ described as His Father's house. Eyes have not seen nor ears heard of the magnificence and glory of the eternal city. It is fully equipped with only the finest of everything and there God, angels, and people are forever secure in a place we can ultimately call home.

God declared through the pen of Isaiah that "heaven is my throne and the earth is my footstool". This places God, heaven, and earth close to us all. It is so close that He can speak out of heaven and people of the earth can hear instantly and know His will. The relationship of heaven to earth is both close and real. All creation is His and He is close to His creation.

Heaven awaits the faithful follower of Christ at the end of life's journey. No child of God has to wait in a grave nor in an ante-chamber. God designed no holding provision for us, but makes the door of heaven wide open for His children and quickly admits us. He remains the door keeper and makes clear that He, Himself, is that door and through Him the saved must enter.

One of the most dedicated men of the New Testament was the Apostle Paul. In writing about change caused by death said: "We are confident, I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body and to be present with the Lord." (II Corinthians 5:8) Paul understood that heaven is our next home when we leave the earth and when we understand what heaven offers, intense anxiety springs up within us. It is going to be a wonderful place.

Heaven is not a place where strangers congregate nor a place of eternal introductions, but it's a place where everyone will feel at home and be a part of beautiful fellowship which will last forever.

Heaven is a very large place. Some call it a planet. It is described as being a place where tangible things are and where real people go. Many specific creations make up that magnificent city. Both tangible and intangible things are included. No perimeters are ascribed to it, but it is so spacious that even the holy city which does have perimeters of 1500 miles square is located in it. That holy city will be coming down from heaven to earth and is called the New Jerusalem. John in revelation records its size, purpose, and future.

Heaven was not created by God for worship only even though we shall all worship individually and in unison. Other marvelous things have been created and are being created for our happiness, too.

For the Christian one thing of paramount interest is that special blessing we call “rest”. We are promised by Christ that we will rest from our labors and our works do follow us. Many of God’s children will leave behind a tired body but in heaven there is eternal rest. Nothing can be more rewarding to all of us than to go to a place of eternal rest. What a blessed thought!

Heaven offers a large variety of things peculiar to human interests. There will be a host of people, along with singing and musical instruments. Specifically mentioned are trumpets and harps. No doubt those instruments which King David spoke of in the Psalms will be included, too. Good music and good singing blesses people. God wants His people to be blessed.

When we examine the scriptures for all the things mentioned in heaven, there are many. Who among us would think about armies, horses, gates, mansions, thrones, chariots, a river and other such things? The list can go on and on. Heaven is great and it’s big. Go there when you leave the earth! Don’t miss it for anything or anybody.

God had human beings in mind when He created Heaven, just like He has Satan in mind when He created Hell. Remember, God is the Creator and creation is the result of His hand.

Sadly, many will miss going to and living in that lovely place called heaven. Our lives, if lived in selfish interest and pleasures here and now, will be sorrowfully regretted if we miss heaven. If the only interests pursued while walking through the course of this world is self, it could be catastrophic. Don’t let it happen to you!

As we approach the doors of eternity, and all of us will, there is one door we will want to enter. That one door which we want to enter is the door to heaven. There are qualifications, however, specifically mentioned in our scriptures which our Lord requires of us. He tells us in the Psalms that we must walk uprightly. Here are David’s words: “Lord, who shall abide in thy Tabernacle? Who shall abide in the holy hill? He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness and speaketh truth in his heart. He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his neighbor, nor taketh up reproach to his neighbor.” (Psalm 15:1-5)

Our sincere prayer to Jesus Christ in which we ask for forgiveness and cleansing from our sins is a first step; then, we must believe in Jesus with all our

hearts. We should be baptized in water, if at all possible, and we will find the Lord gracious and kind. He will forgive our sins and will remove our iniquities far from us.

Jesus asks us all to “deny ourselves and take up our cross and follow Him” and if we follow Him, He will lead us even through the valley of the shadow of death and into heaven.

Each of us can be a part of God’s kingdom on earth, now, and later in heaven. Heaven is made for us all and is a place which is waiting for us. Let’s Be There! Start toward that city today.

“God Loves You”

Christian Chapel Church 4043 Chandler Road Muskogee, Oklahoma 74403 (918) 687-1606
