

Series: Heaven: My Forever Home

C.R. 9-9-18

“Thinking About Home”

Text: Colossians 3:1-2

Intro: I must admit, my feelings about Heaven have changed a great deal in the last few days. When I started this series, I had no idea. I have often had fond thoughts of Heaven, and I have always been excited in knowing what awaits me according to the Bible, but now it is personal. As a Pastor, I have heard people shout at the preaching and singing about Heaven. I have watched many as they have wiped their eyes as the tears streamed down, and often I wondered. I wonder no more.

I am so thankful that God shared with us some insight about Heaven. Heaven is not some fanciful, imaginary destination. It is a real place, with a very real God, real angels, real people, and amazing beauty. The question is should we be thinking about heaven that much? Can we not become so Heavenly minded that we are no earthly good? I hope today to show us that we need to be heavenly minded. We must be.

If Heaven is our future forever home why wouldn't we want to know all about it? Theologian Donald Bloesch suggests, “Our greatest affliction is not anxiety, or even guilt, but rather homesickness—a nostalgia or ineradicable yearning to be at home with God.” God has given us just enough information. If he told us everything about Heaven we would be no good at all on this earth. We could not concentrate, but like the child who has been promised an ice cream sundae after he eats his vegetables, God has promised us dessert after this life. We just have to eat our vegetables first.

1) Focusing on Heaven Reminds US of the Brevity of Our Earthly Life.

- a. Fact: Life is short. Eternity is long.
- b. Very few people give much thought to death. Unless they face a terminal illness, or have reached an age that they know it can't be long.
- c. We view death as a distant possibility.
- d. Your departure from this life is certain. No one gets out of this world alive.
- e. **Psa 90:12** So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom.
- f. **Illustrate** with man who had a chalk board in his office with little marks all over it. Erased one every day until he turned seventy. The added one every day after seventy.
- g. **Luk 12:19** And I will say to my soul, Soul, thou hast much goods laid up for many years; take thine ease, eat, drink, and be merry.
- h. **Luk 12:20** But God said unto him, Thou fool, this night thy soul shall be required of thee: then whose shall those things be, which thou hast provided?
- i. The word required in this text refers to a loan that has come due. Our lives are on loan, and He can call in the loan anytime he chooses.
- j. **Jas 4:14** Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away.
- k. **1Pe 1:24** For all flesh is as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away:
- l. A southern preacher said: “Life is like grass: It is sown, it is grown, it is mown, it is blown, and then it is gow-ne!”

2) Focusing on Heaven Prepares Us for the Certainty of Judgment.

- a. Heb 9:27 And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:
- b. The fact is no not one will escape the judgement.
- c. The lost will stand at the Great White Throne Judgment.
- d. The Saved will stand at the Bema Seat and be judged on their works.
- e. We must remind ourselves constantly that I will give an account for this.
- f. I would much rather hear “well done” than “what have you done”

3) Focusing on Heaven Motivates Us to Live Pure Lives

- a. Pure lives please the Father.
- b. We don't want stained garments. We should adorn our lives with the finest “garments” or good works we can.
- c. We don't do this to earn forgiveness, but to receive His rewards when he returns.
- d. We live in a dirty world, and it is so hard not to get dirty.
- e. Listen to how Moses did it.
- f. Heb 11:24 By faith Moses, when he was come to years, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh's daughter;
- g. Heb 11:25 Choosing rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season;
- h. Heb 11:26 Esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompence of the reward.
- i. Heb 11:27 By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible.
- j. Moses was looking to the rewards of Heaven more than the passing pleasures of this Earth.
- k. Illustrate: Some of the most comforting words I have heard in the last several days was not “Your daddy was a great electrician, or your daddy was a hard worker, but the most awesome things I heard was “Your daddy led me to Christ”.

4) For on Heaven Places Suffering in Perspective

- a. We can't help it and it natural when we say “Why did God allow _____?”
- b. The truth is God will never fully answer that question? But he has given us the promise of Heaven to put suffering in perspective.
- c. 2Co 4:17 For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;
- d. 2Co 4:18 While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal.
- e. The Message: These hard times are small potatoes compared to the coming good times, the lavish celebration prepared for us. There's far more here than meets the eye. The things we see now are here today, gone tomorrow. But the things we can't see now will last forever.
- f. Heaven is the promise that God will eventually make all things right.
- g. However, if we build our lives on the redemptive work of Christ, we should all be optimists. Why? Because even our most painful experience in life is but a temporary setback. Our pain and

suffering may or may not be relieved in this life, but they will certainly be relieved in the next. That is Christ's promise—no more death or pain; he will wipe away all our tears. He took our sufferings on himself so that one day he might remove all suffering from us. (Alcorn)

- h. One of our great comforts on that Monday night at about 9:15 was it is finished. No more pain, no more hurt, no more cancer, no more pills. Etc.....
- i. Knowing that our suffering will be relieved doesn't make it easy, but it does make it bearable.
- j. I'm hurting today even though I know heaven is real. But I want you to know that reality of Heaven is a great pain reliever. It reminds me that this is temporary.
- k. I found these words in my dad's notebook. He had written them down more than once and in a couple of sermons. Heaven: Think of stepping on a shore and finding it heaven. Of taking hold of a hand and finding it God's hand. Of breathing new air and finding it celestial air. Of feeling invigorated and finding it immortality. Of passing from storm to tempest to an unknown calm. Of Waking Up and Finding it Home.