

Heaven

The Ultimate Reward for Righteousness

1 Pet. 1:4

Introduction:

- A. We need to think and talk about heaven more – too earth bound (cf. Slave & Master)
 - 1. "Heaven" is N.T. over 250 times
 - a. Sometimes refers to universe beyond the earth. (Matt. 24:29, 30; Rev. 19:17)
 - b. More often refers to dwelling place of God, angels, etc.
 - c. The ultimate reward and dwelling place of the righteousness.
- B. Heaven should appeal to us for a number of reasons:

Discussion:

- I. It Is Beautiful (Rev. 21:9-22:5)**
 - A. Needs no light but the glory of God and His son.
 - B. Figurative language to impress us with its beauty.
- II. It Is Eternal**
 - A. A building of God (a body) that is eternal. (2 Cor. 5:1-3)
 - 1. A new spiritual body. (1 Cor. 15:50-57)
 - 2. We shall be like him. (1 John 3:2)
 - B. An incorruptible inheritance that fades not away. (1 Pet. 1:4).
 - 1. Treasure that can not decay nor be stolen. (Matt. 6:20)
 - 2. Life that never ends. (1 John 2:25)
 - C. Eternal happiness. (Rev. 21:4)
 - 1. Happiness without the need for earthly relationships. (cf. Matt. 22:30)
 - 2. Happiness worshipping and serving God. (Rev. 7:15-17)
- III. It Is Where Righteousness Dwells (2 Pet. 3:10-12)**
 - A. God, Christ, and angels are there. (Matt. 6:9; Acts 7:55; Matt. 22:30)
 - B. Nothing that defiles can enter heaven. (Rev. 21:17)
 - 1. Will never hear another lie, dirty word or gossiping tongue.
 - 2. Will never see another sinful act or sinful neglect.
 - 3. Would never be happy there if don't give up our love for sin.
- IV. It Is God's Reward For Faithfulness (Matt. 5:11, 12)**
 - A. We should want to go to heaven because it is what God wants for us.
 - B. God is rewarder of those who diligently seek him. (Heb. 11:6)
 - 1. To seek is more than just to find that He really is.
 - 2. To seek is to seek in view of serving Him. (cf. Matt. 6:33)
 - C. God has promised eternal salvation to all who obey Christ. (Heb. 5:8,9)
 - 1. Obey him for the remission of sins. (Acts 2:38; Acts 22:16)
 - 2. Obey him to remain faithful. (Rev. 2:10)
 - 3. Obey him to be restored from backsliding.

Conclusion:

- A. Do you want to go to heaven?
 - 1. How can you expect to go to heaven while living in danger of hell?
 - 2. Are you one who really wants to go to heaven, but don't want to be concerned about now?
- B. Do you want to go enough to give up the world and become obedient to Christ?